

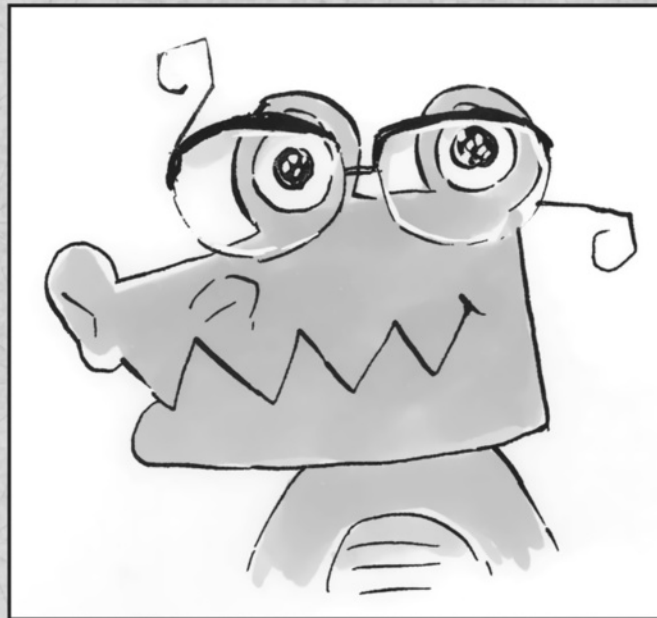
DEMON SLAYER

KIMETSU NO YAIBA

21

Story and Art by

KOYOHARU GOTOUGE



KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

Hi, I'm Gotouge. Since the start of 2020, we've been stuck indoors listening to nothing but depressing news. Despite that, I hope you're doing well. There hasn't been a day without trouble since the start of my serialization. I feel like my soul is breaking into pieces every day, but I've been using duct tape to piece it back together so I can keep moving forward.

I think a lot of my readers feel the same way. We don't necessarily have an enemy, but we feel like we must fight and win. Those of us who've been holding on, repeating to ourselves that we can't lose, are courageous warriors. I hope fortune smiles upon you.

**DEMON SLAYER:
KIMETSU NO YAIBA
VOLUME 21**

Shonen Jump Edition

Story and Art by
KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

KIMETSU NO YAIBA

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DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA is rated T for
Teen and recommended for ages 13 and up. This
volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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**SHONEN
JUMP**





**ANCIENT
MEMORIES**

KOYOHARU GOTOUGE

CHARACTERS



GENYA
SHINAZUGAWA

He went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. His elder brother is Sanemi, the Wind Hashira. He gains demonic strength by eating demon flesh.



INOSUKE
HASHIBIRA

He also went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He wears the pelt of a wild boar and is very belligerent.



ZENITSU
AGATSUMA

He went through Final Selection at the same time as Tanjiro. He's usually cowardly, but when he falls asleep, his true power comes out.

TANJIRO
KAMADO



A kind boy who saved his sister when the rest of his family was killed. Now he seeks revenge. He can smell the scent of demons and his opponents' weaknesses.



MUICHIRO
TOKITO

Mist Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. He's the descendant of users of Sun Breathing, the "first breathing."



SANEMI
SHINAZUGAWA

Wind Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. He has a harsh attitude toward his younger brother Genya.



GYOMEI
HIMEJIMA

Stone Hashira in the Demon Slayer Corps. He is always clasping a rosary and reciting a Buddhist prayer.

Tanjiro's younger sister. A demon attacked her and turned her into a demon. But unlike other demons, she fights her urges and tries to protect Tanjiro.



NEZUKO
KAMADO



GIYU
TOMIOKA

The Hashira who invited Tanjiro to join the Demon Slayer Corps. He has always cared about Tanjiro.



YUSHIRO

A young boy who is a demon. He is devoted to Tamayo and possesses a blood Demon Art called Eyeblood. He is pretending to be human so he can work alongside the Demon Slayers.



MUZEAN
KIBUTSUJI

Kibutsuji turned Nezuko into a demon. He is Tanjiro's enemy and hides his nature in order to live among human beings.

In Taisho-era Japan, young Tanjiro makes a living selling charcoal. One day, demons kill his family and turn his younger sister Nezuko into a demon. Tanjiro and Nezuko set out to find a way to return Nezuko to human form and defeat Kibutsuji, the demon who killed their family!

After joining the Demon Slayer Corps, Tanjiro meets Tamayo and Yushiro—demons who oppose Kibutsuji—who provide a clue to how Nezuko may regain her humanity.

Nezuko manifests the ability to withstand sunlight, so Kibutsuji comes for her and attacks Ubuyashiki Mansion. The Demon Slayers plunge into Infinity Castle and defeat the Upper Rank 2 and 3 demons!!

They eventually defeat the Upper Rank 1 demon but suffer many losses. Now Tanjiro and the remaining Hashira rush toward Kibutsuji.

STORY

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ELDER BROTHER,
FEELINGS FOR
YOUNGER BROTHER**

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**ANCIENT
MEMORIES**



**CHAPTER 179: FEELINGS FOR ELDER
BROTHER, FEELINGS FOR YOUNGER BROTHER**

THE DEMON
IS NO
LONGER
REGENERAT-
ING!

SHINA-
ZUGAWA!!
STOP
ATTACKING!!



SWO

OSH



GRAB

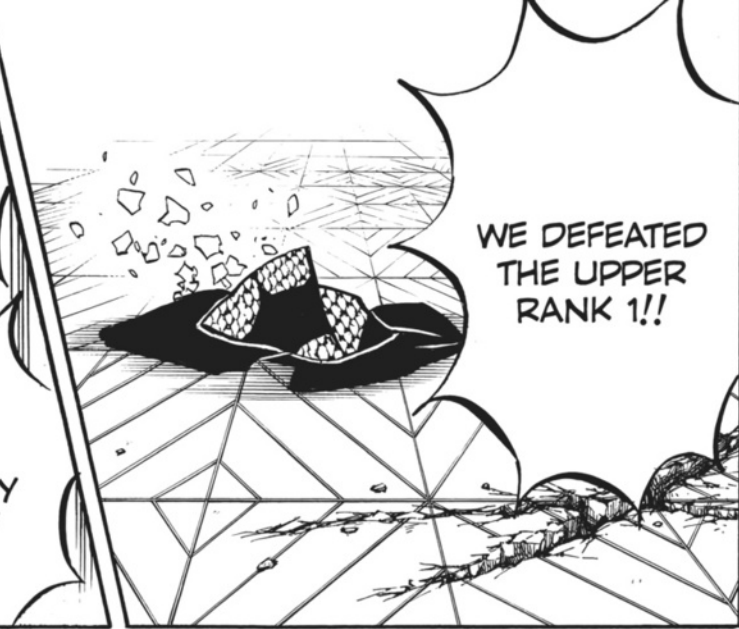
SHINA-
ZUGAWA
!!

IT'S
OVER
!!





THE
FIGHT IS
FINISHED.



WE DEFEATED
THE UPPER
RANK 1!!

IT'S
ALREADY
OVER!!



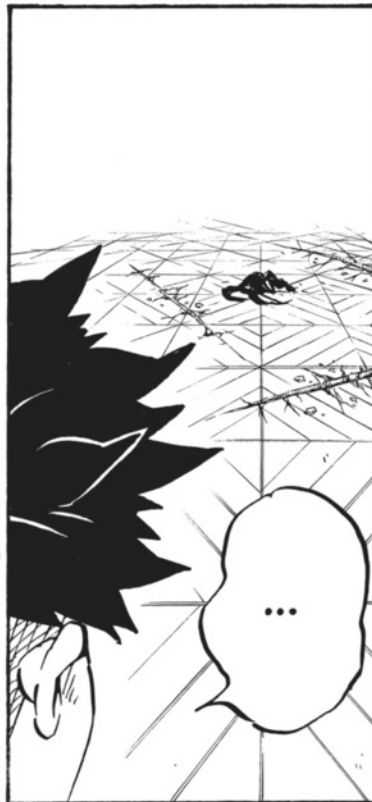
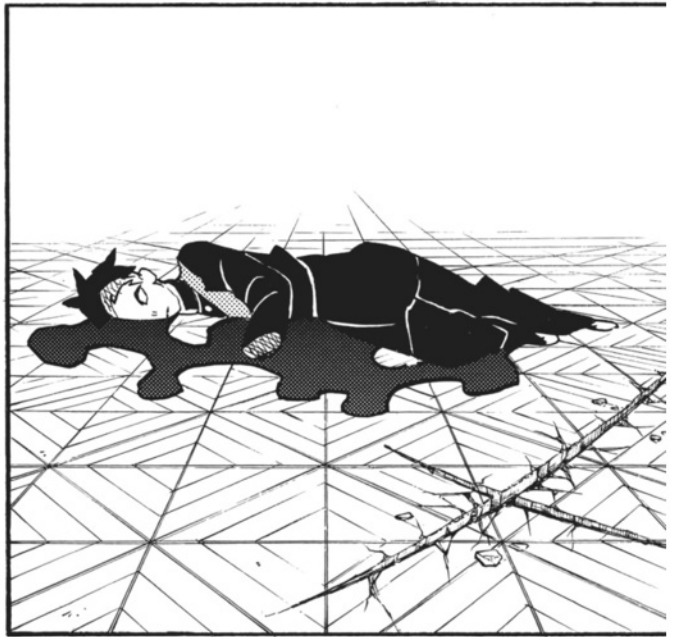
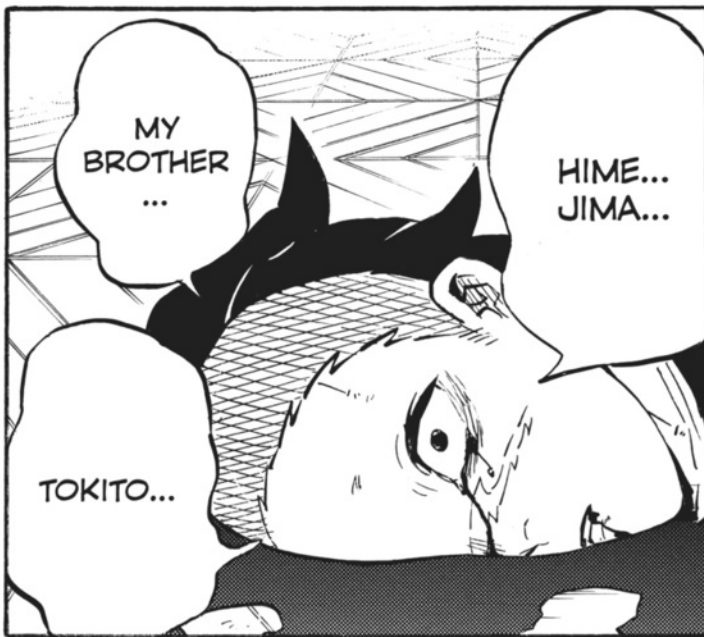
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT!! HE'S
UNCONSCIOUS,
BUT HE'S
STILL
MOVING!

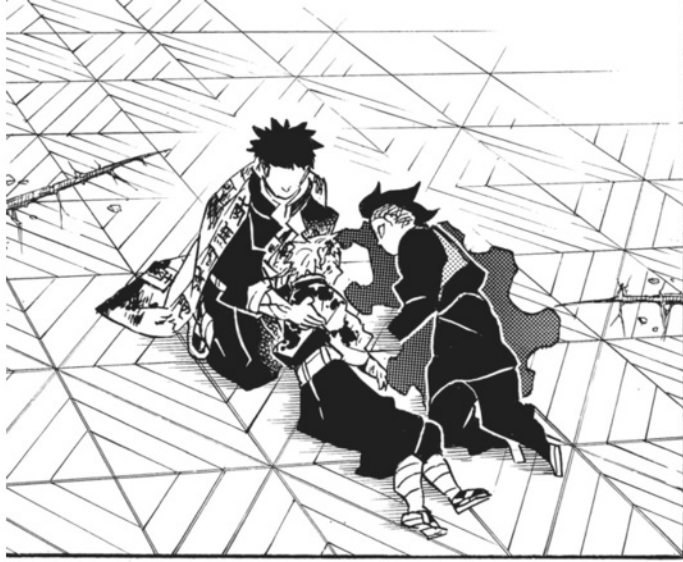
SLUMP



TOKITO...

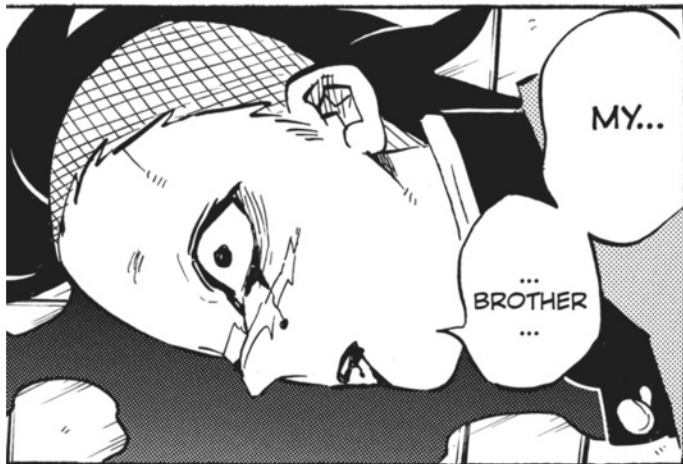
GENYA...





I DON'T THINK
IT WOULD HURT
TO PUT
SHINAZUGAWA,
WHO HAS
MARECHI,
BESIDE HIM.

BUT THAT'S
WEARING OFF
WITH THE
BLOOD LOSS.



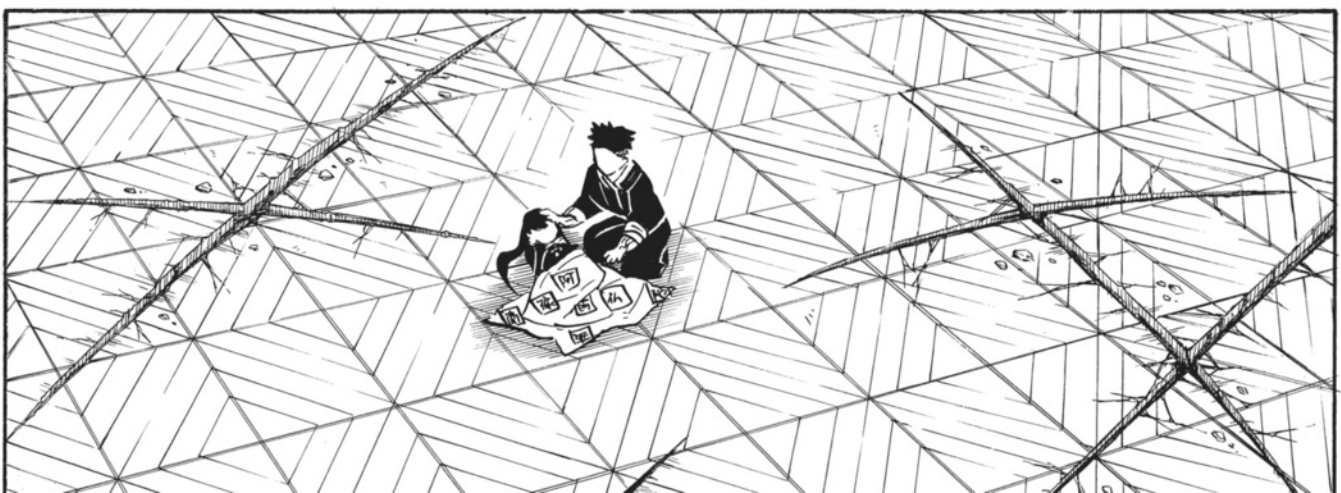
MY...

...
BROTHER
...



GOOD...

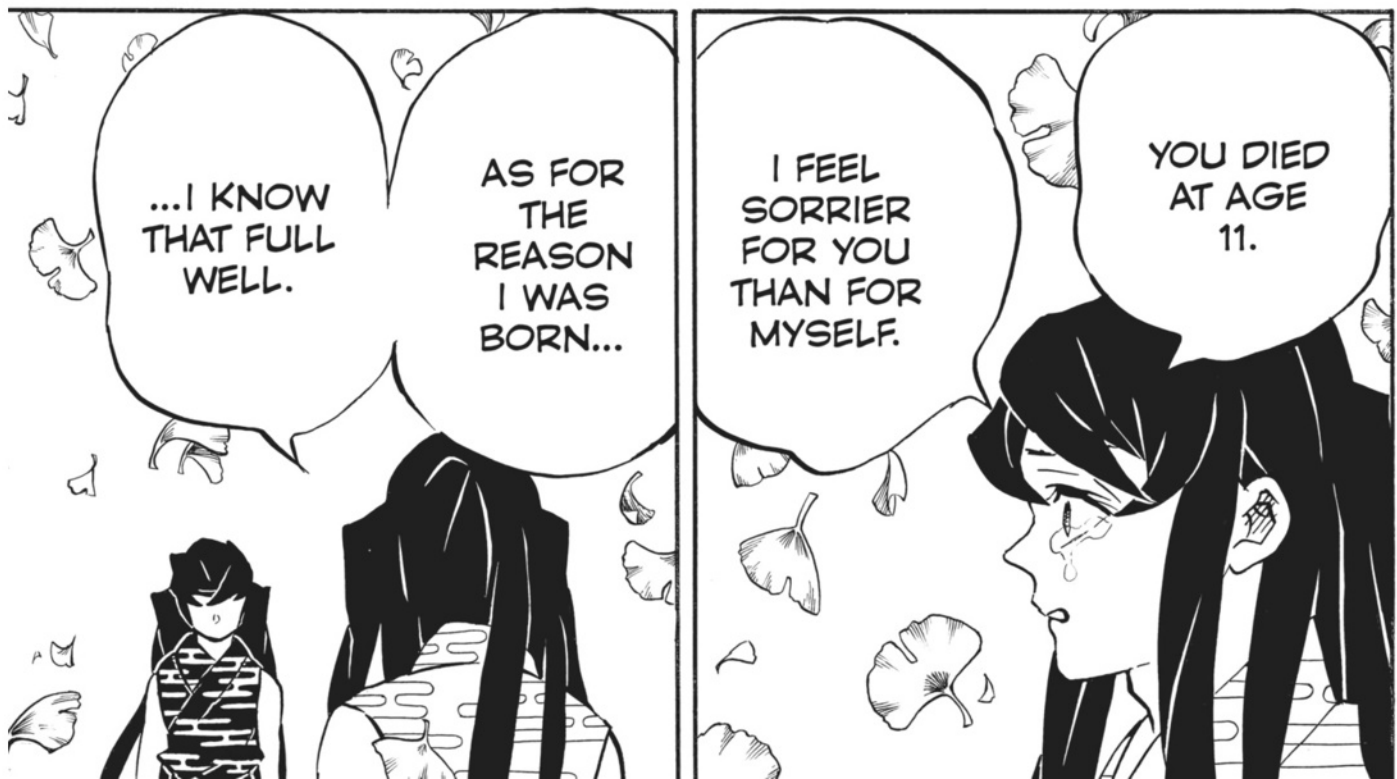
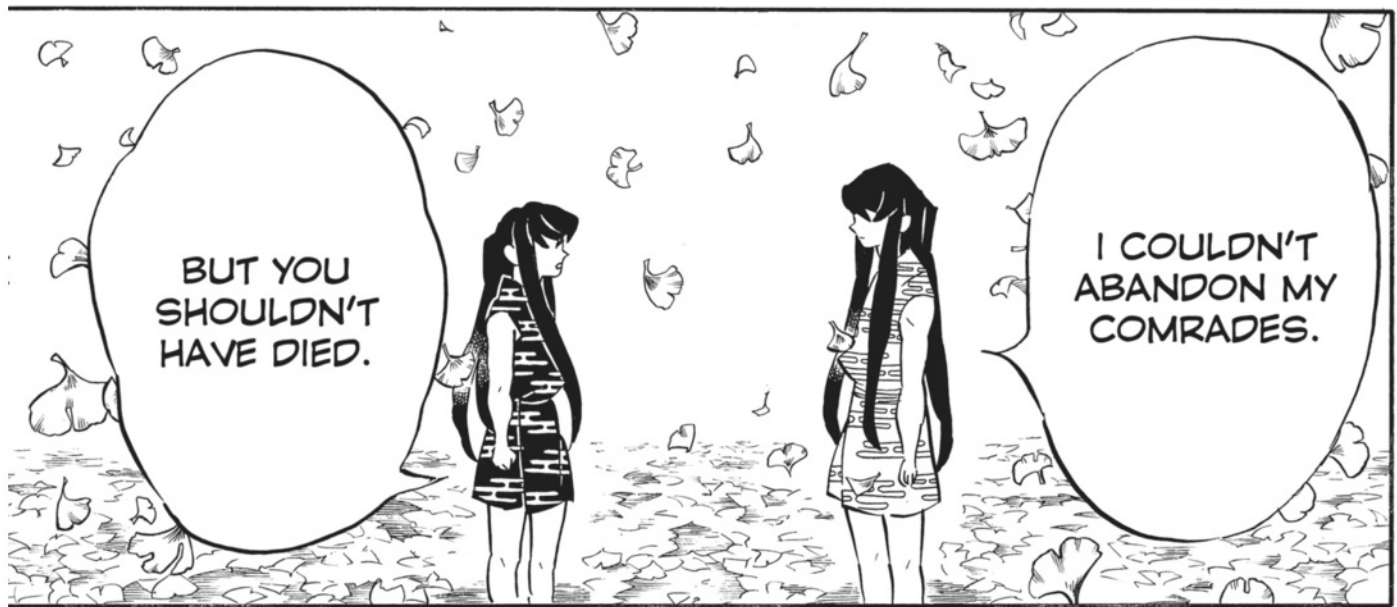
HE'S...
ALIVE...







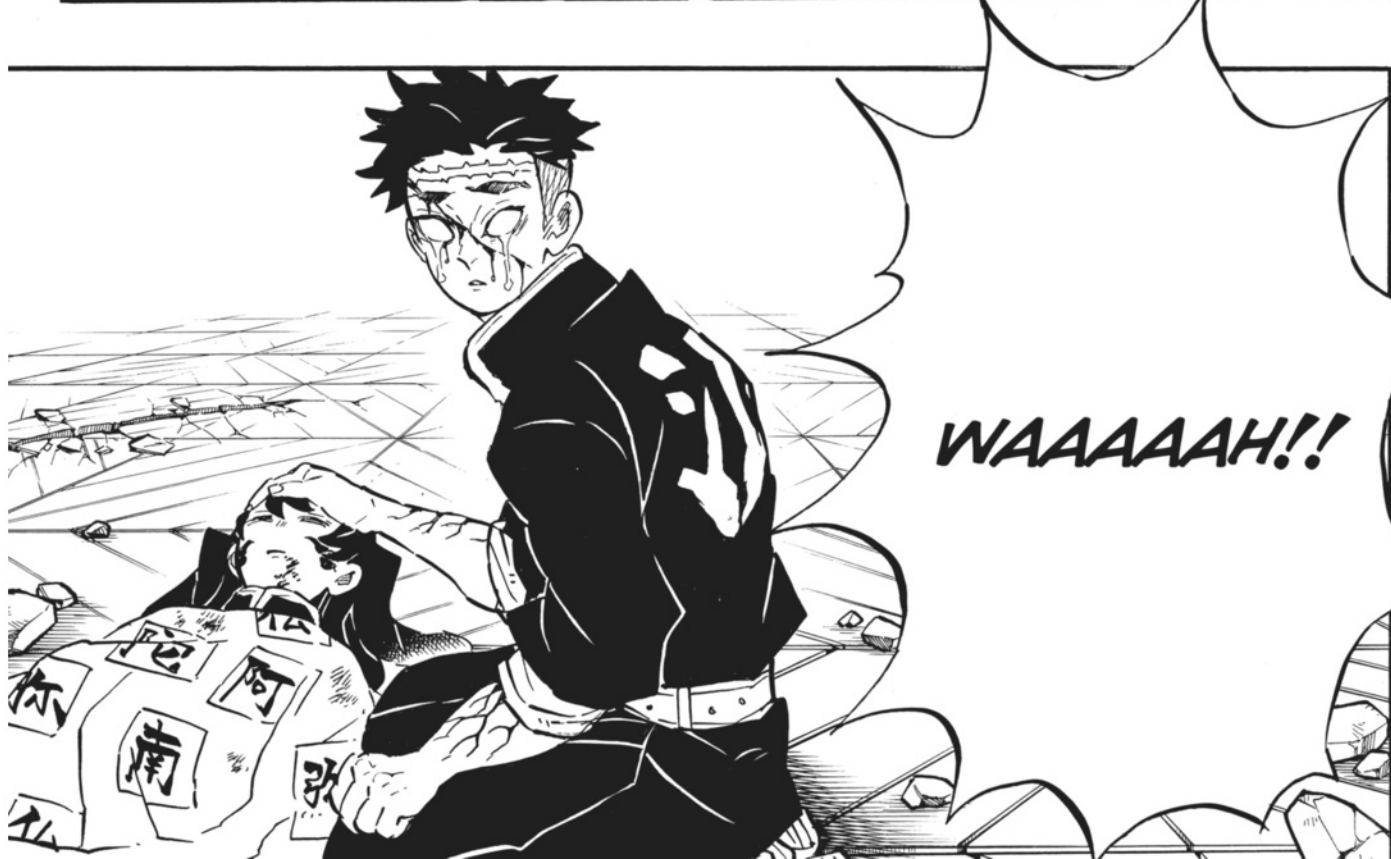
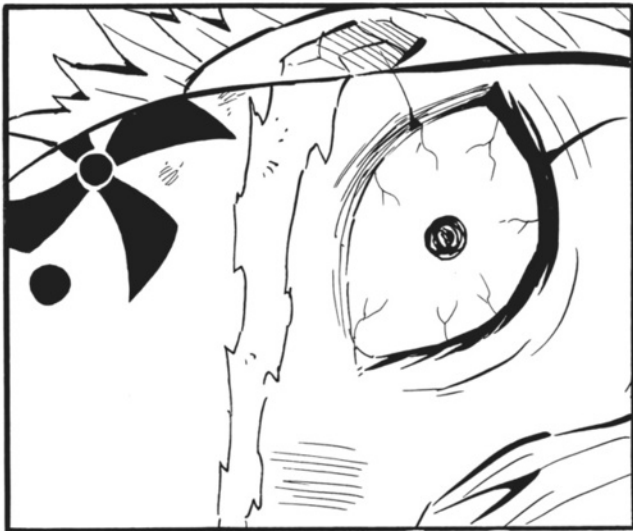














WHY IS
HIS BODY
CRUMBLING
LIKE A
DEMON'S?!
NO! NOOO!

WHAT'S
GOING ON?!
ARGH!!

HIS
BODY...

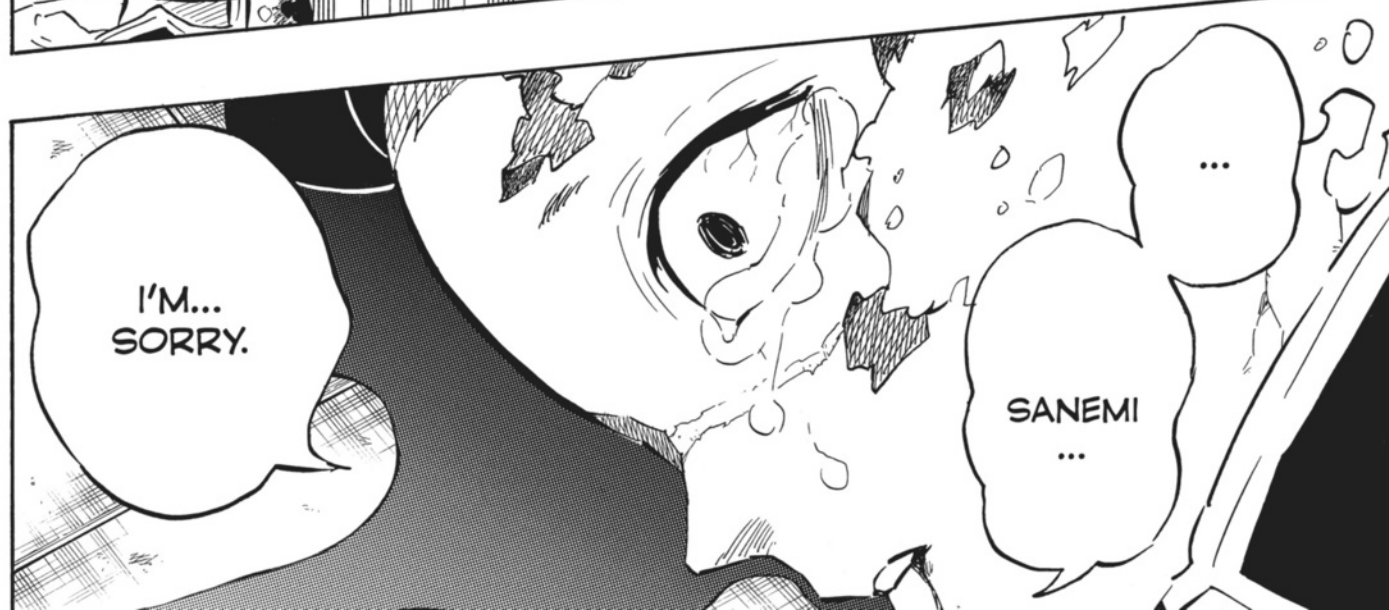


YOUR BIG
BROTHER
WILL
HANDLE IT
SOMEHOW!

DON'T
WORRY!
I'LL HELP
YOU!

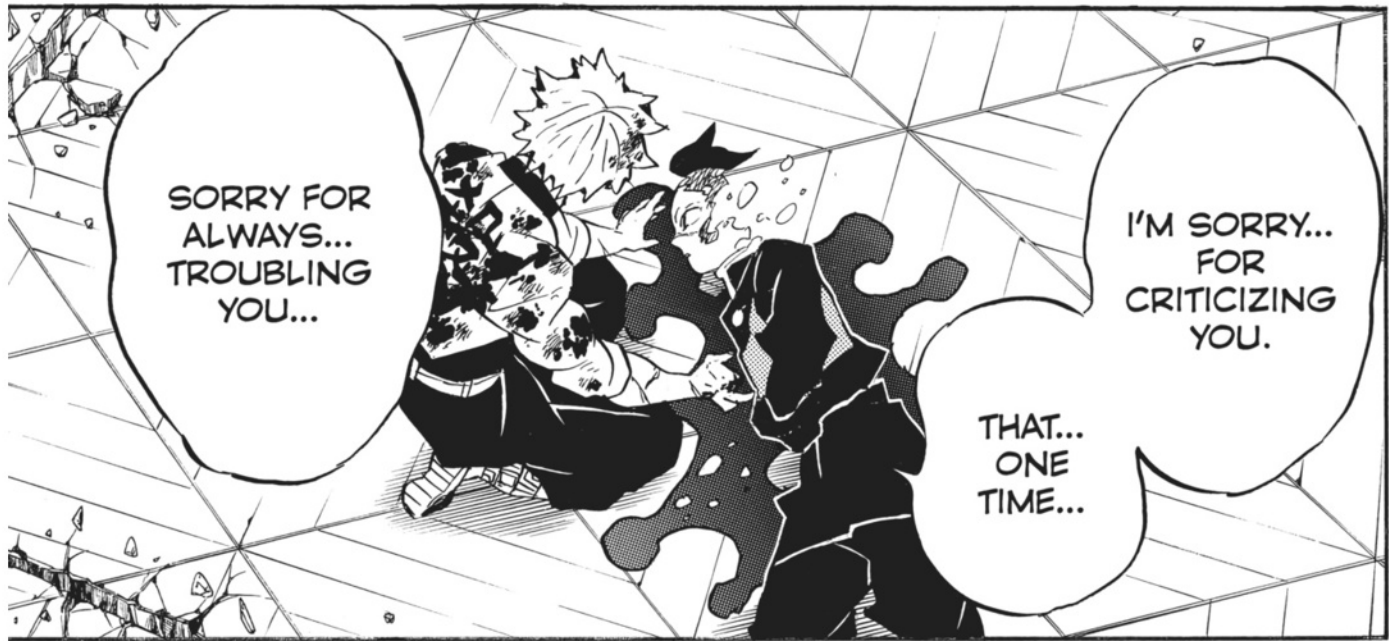
SA...

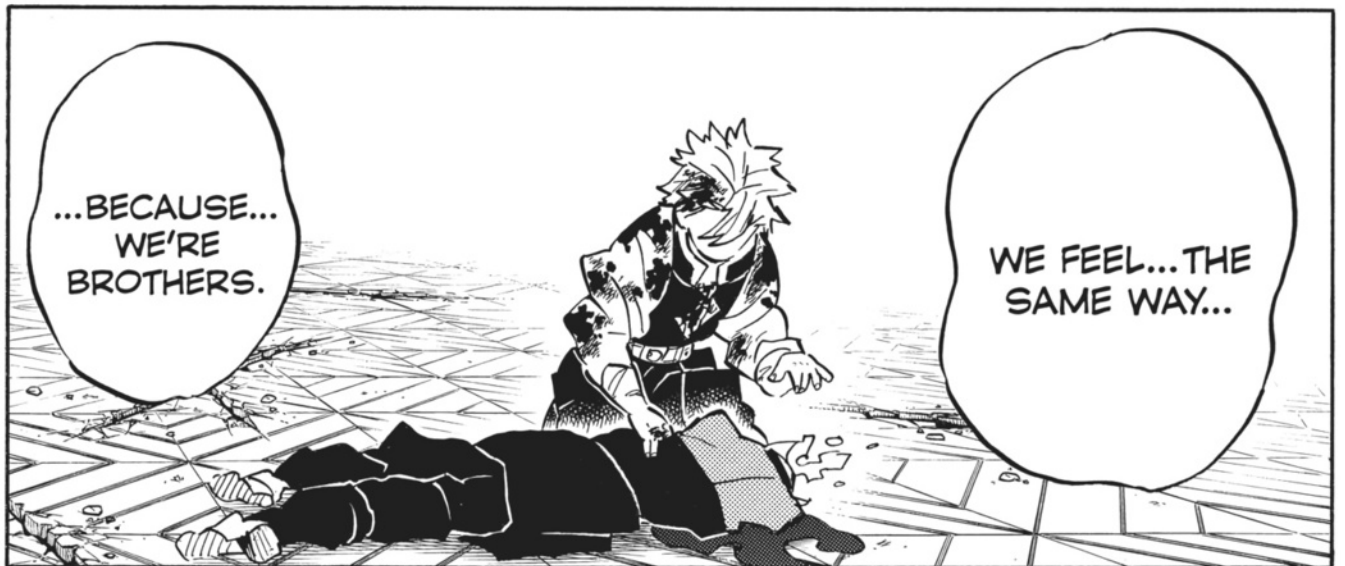
...SA-
NEMI...



I'M...
SORRY.

SANEMI
...





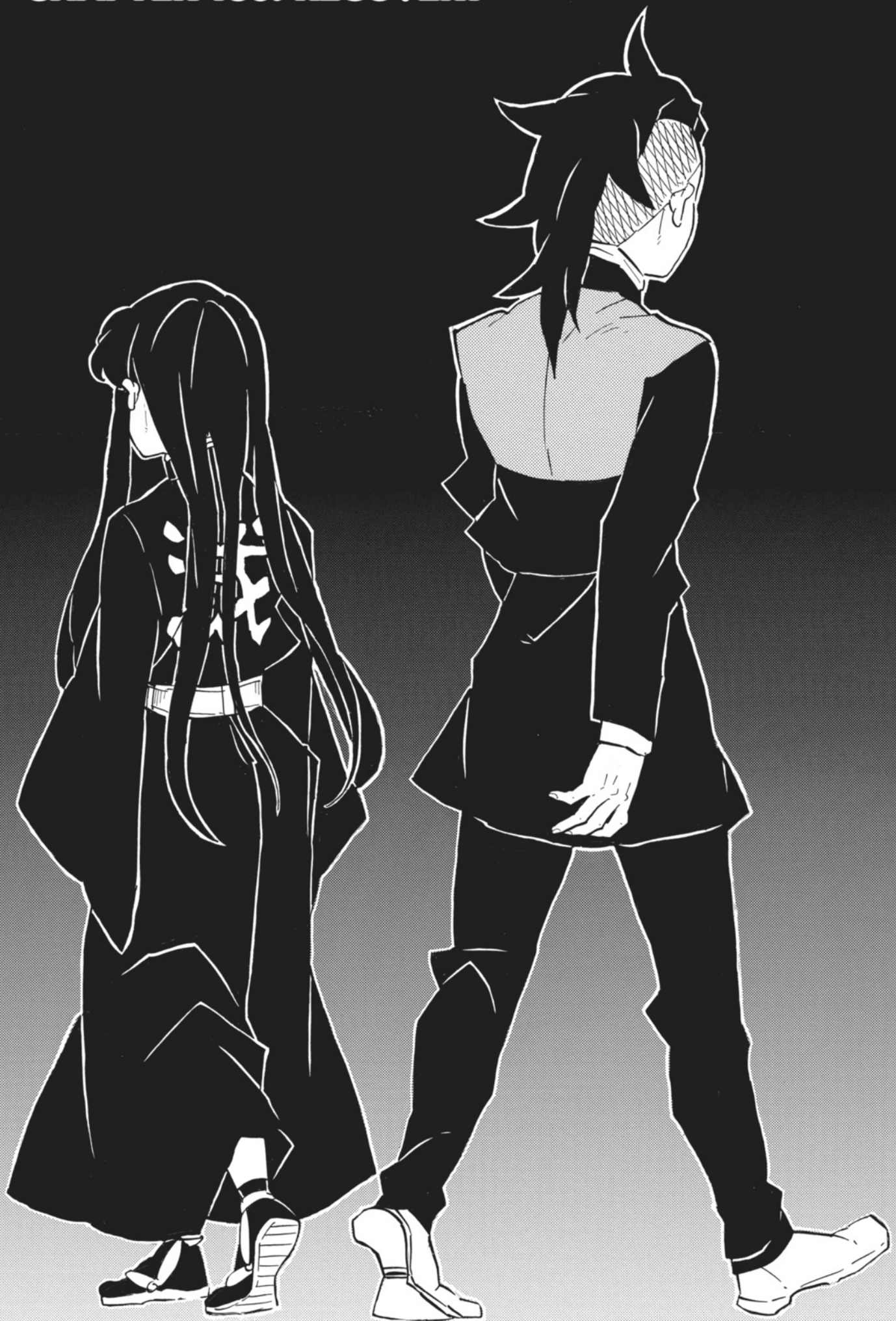








CHAPTER 180: RECOVERY







HANG...

...IN
THERE.



EVERYONE'S
DYING.



JUST LIKE
EVERYONE
ELSE, I'LL
KEEP GOING
WITHOUT
HESITATION.

KEEP
GOING,
FULL SPEED
AHEAD.

KEEP
FIGHTING
UNTIL THE
VERY END.

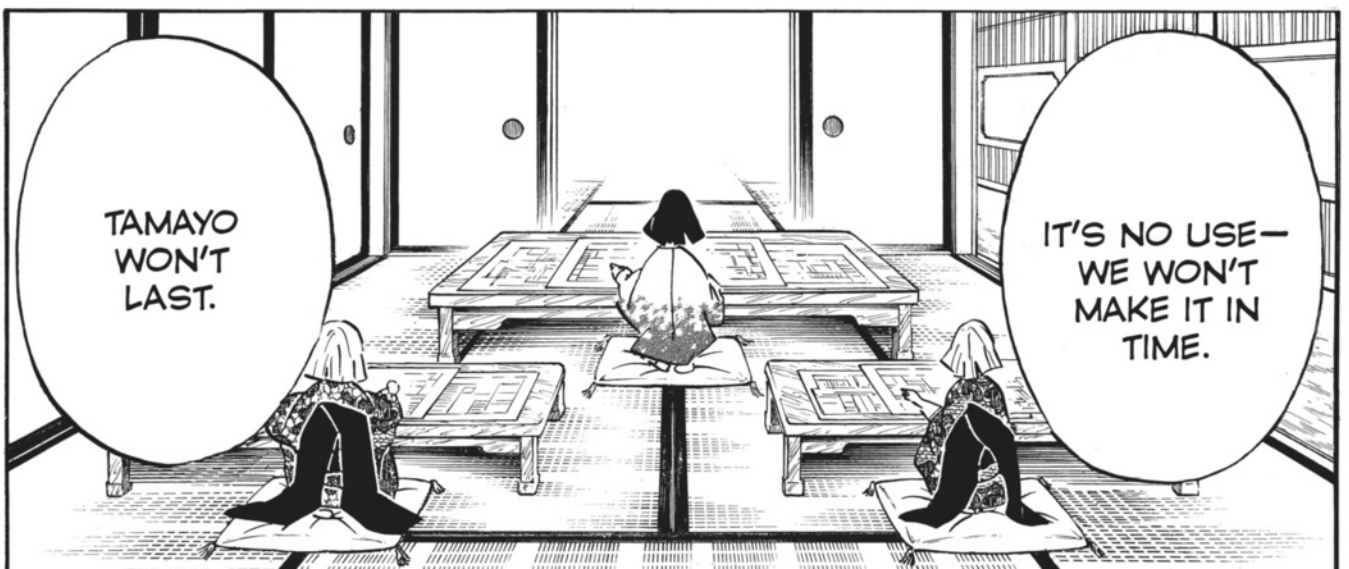
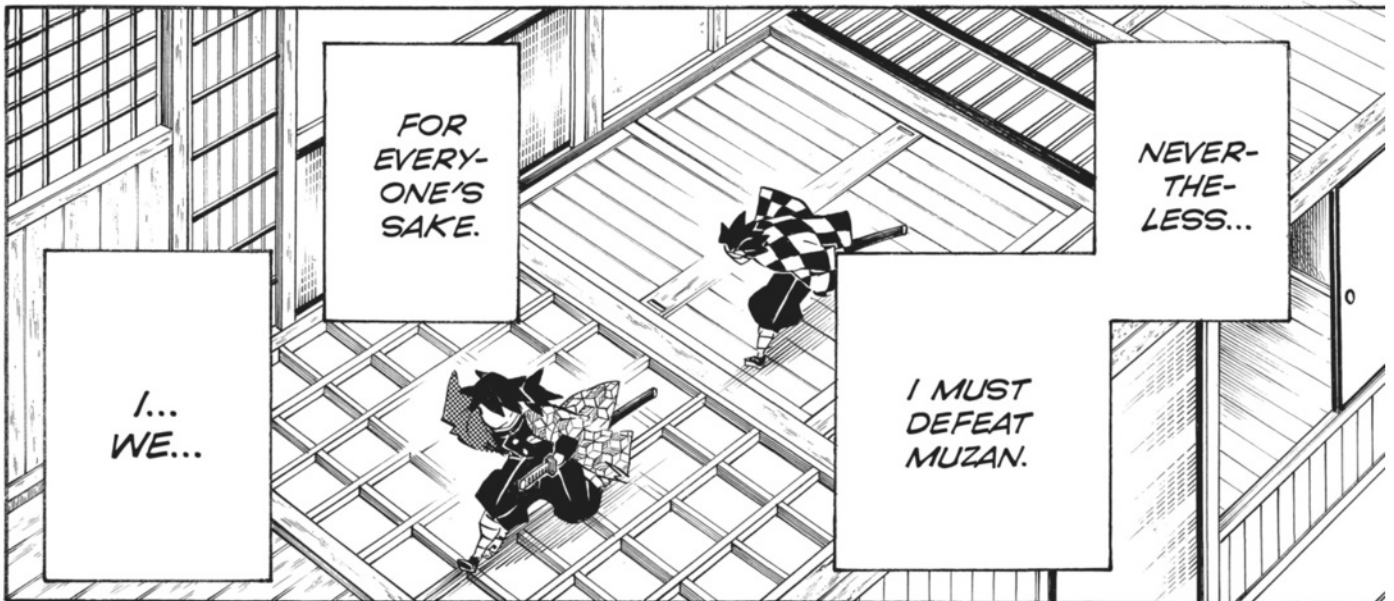


I CAN'T BE A
SUCCESSOR.

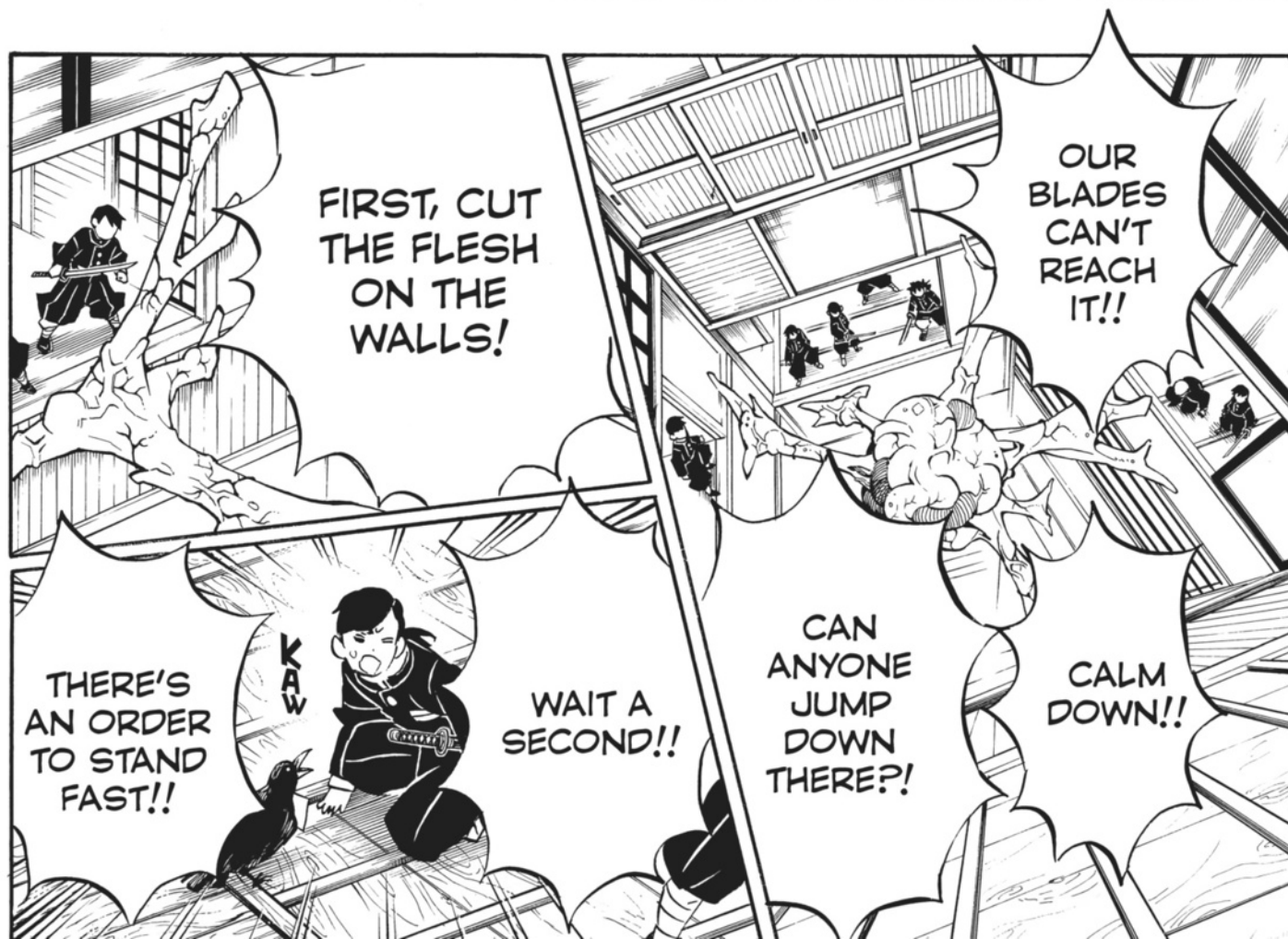


EVEN
IF...

...I MAY
NOT BE
READY.









WE SHOULD
DO EVERY-
THING WE
CAN TO STOP
HIM UNTIL THE
HASHIRA—

THIS ISN'T
THE TIME
TO WAIT
AROUND
AND DO
NOTHING!!









CAN ANY OF
YOU HEAR
ME?!

WAIT FOR THE
HASHIRA TO
GET HERE!!

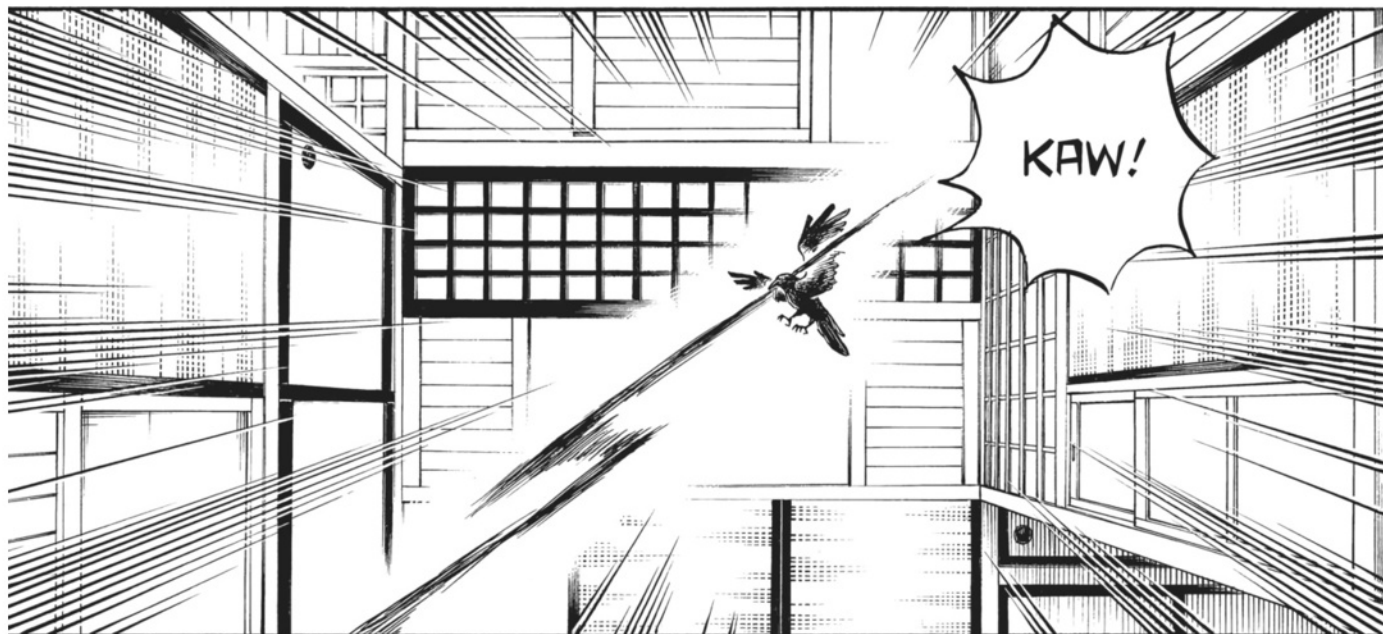
HE'LL JUST
USE YOU AS
FOOD FOR
RECOVERY!



THEY'RE
ALL DEAD.

ALL OF YOU,
FALL BACK
FOR NOW!!

KAW!



...BUT I WAS
STARVING,
SO THAT
MEAL JUST
NOW WAS
TRULY
DELICIOUS.



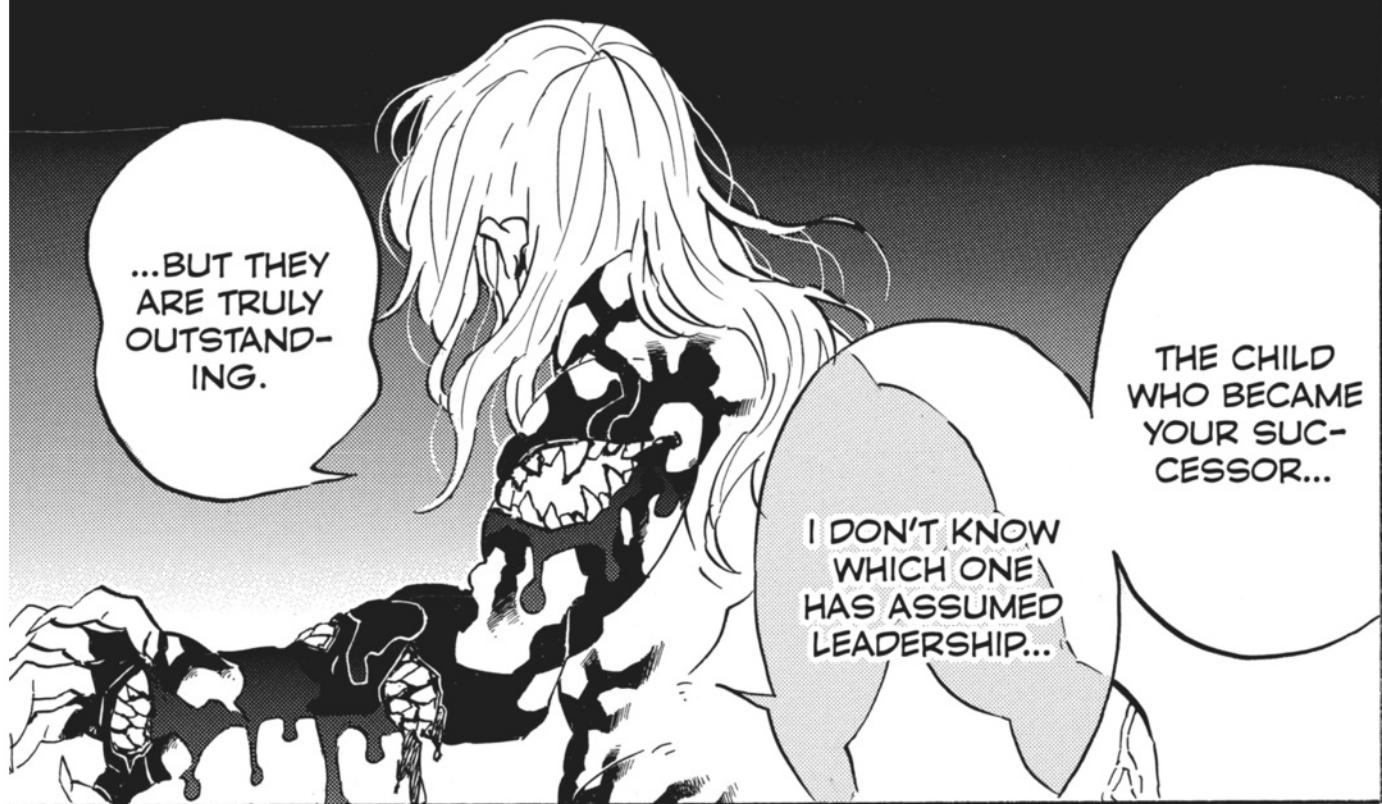
...ONE
CAN LOSE
THEIR
SENSE OF
TASTE...

LIVING FOR
OVER A
THOUSAND
YEARS...



**YOU WENT
TO ALL THE
TROUBLE OF
BRINGING
ME FOOD...**

**...SO I
PRAISE YOU,
UBUYASHIKI.**



...BUT THEY
ARE TRULY
OUTSTAND-
ING.

THE CHILD
WHO BECAME
YOUR SUC-
CESSOR...

I DON'T KNOW
WHICH ONE
HAS ASSUMED
LEADERSHIP...



I HAVE JUST
LOST ALMOST
ALL OF MY
SUBORDI-
NATES.

IF THEY WERE
TO KNEEL
BEFORE ME
AND HANG
THEIR HEADS I
WOULDN'T MIND
MAKING THEM A
DEMON..

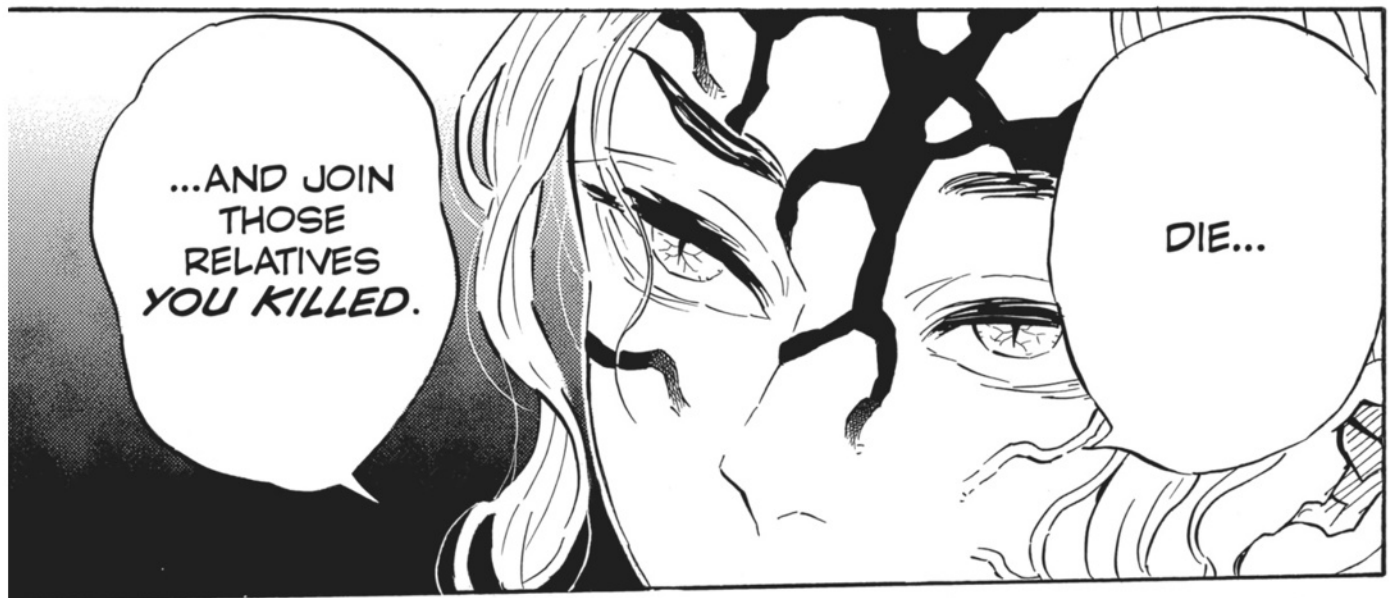
MUNCH

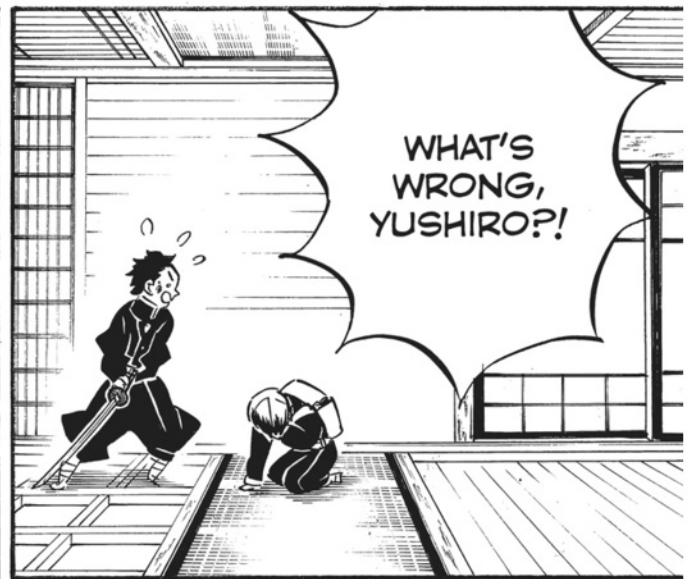
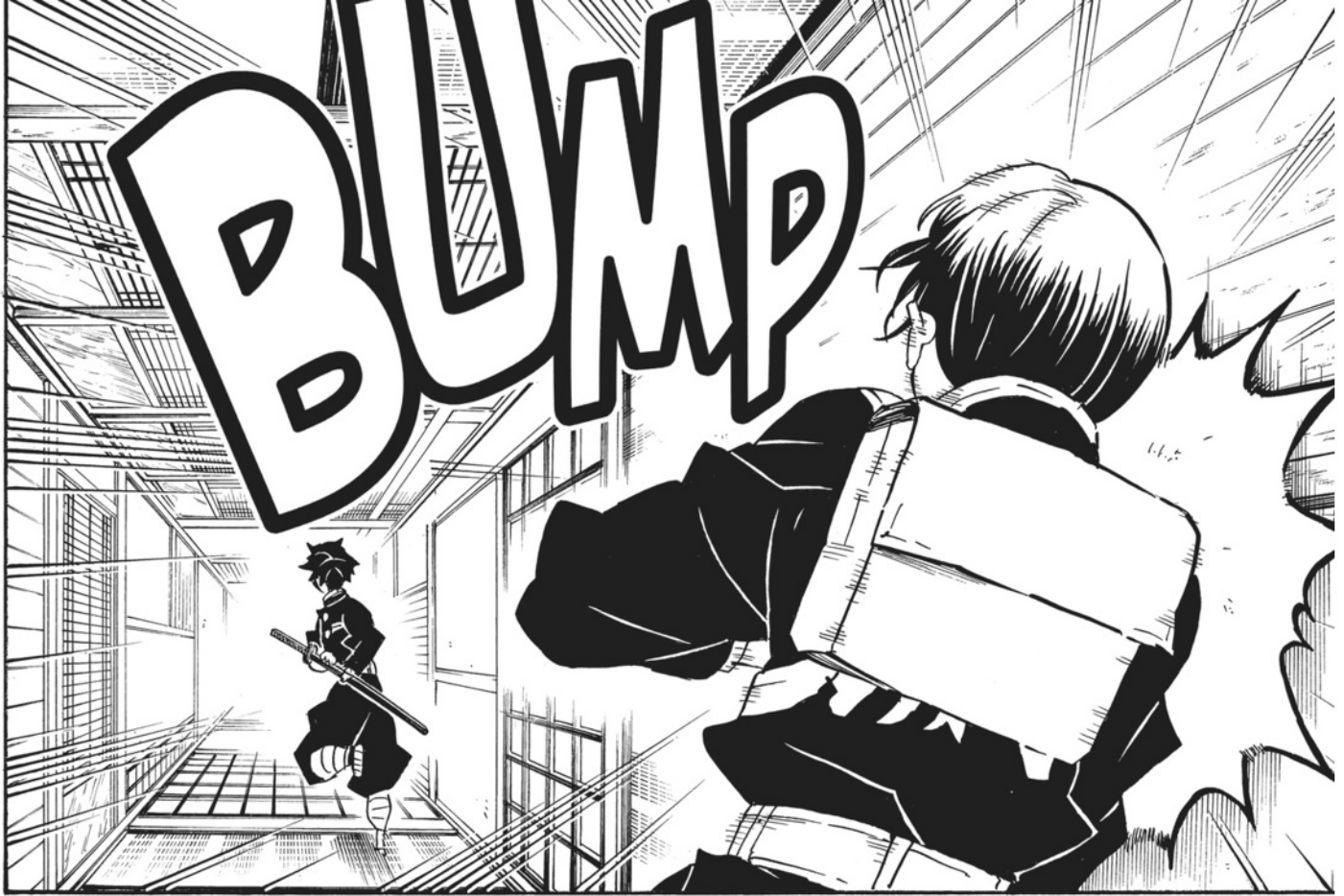


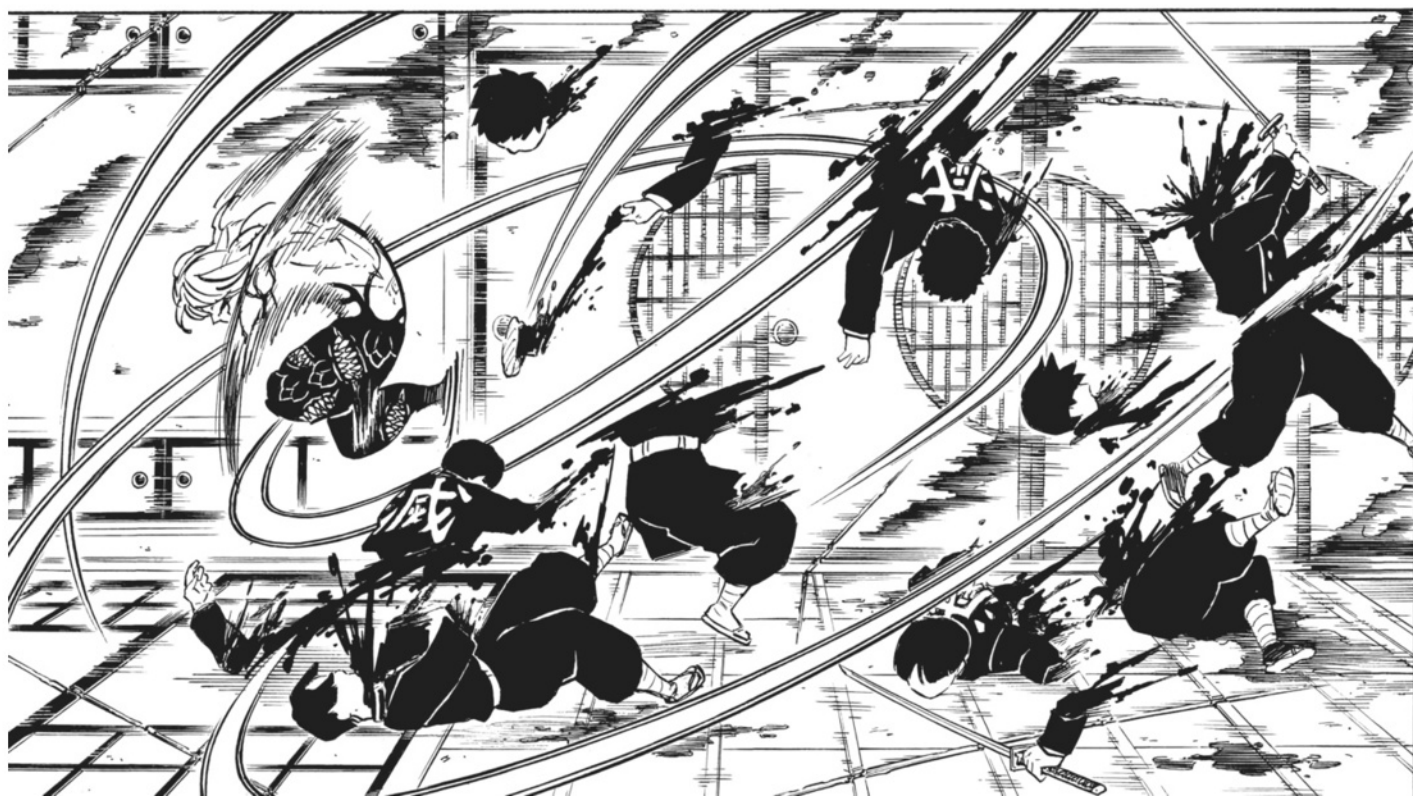
IF HE EATS
OUR TROOPS,
HE'LL
RECOVER HIS
STRENGTH!!

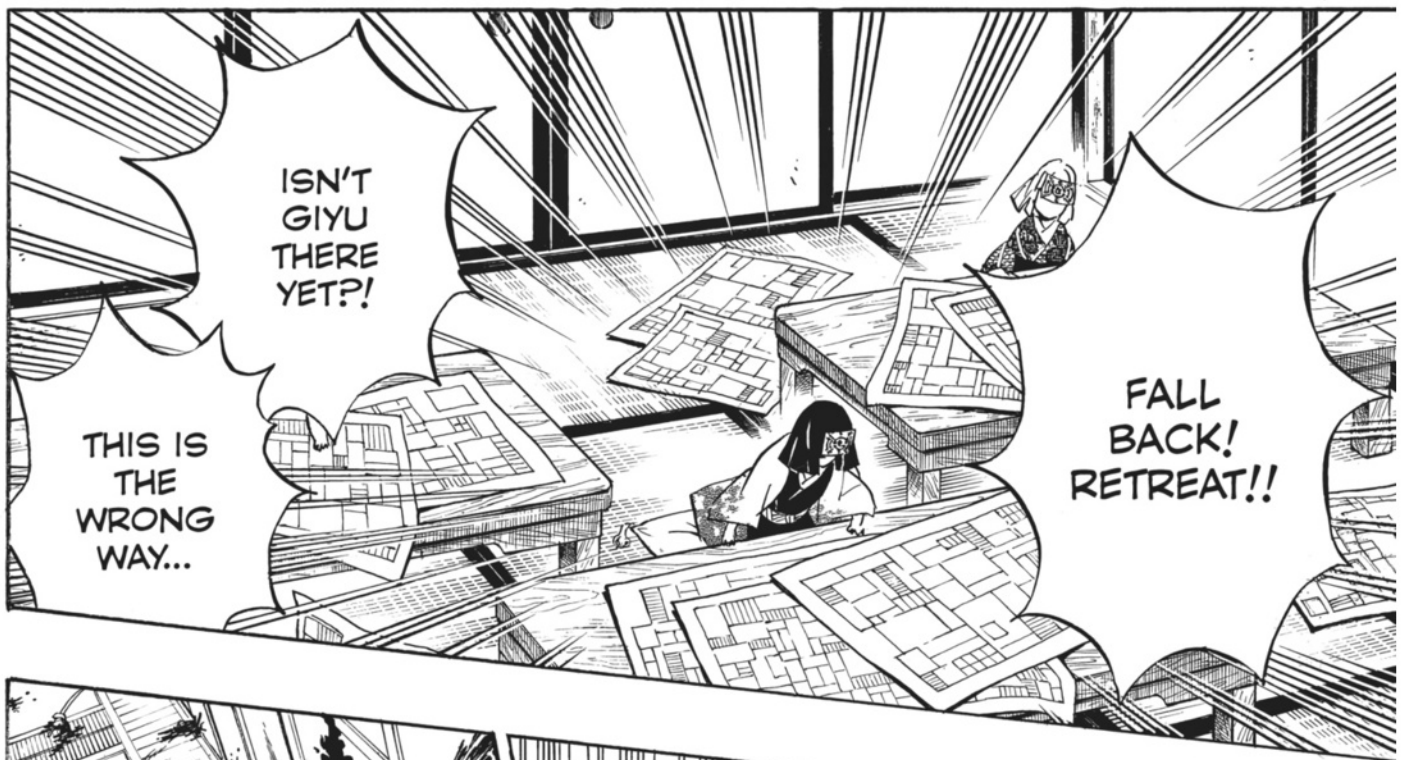
HAVE THE
SECOND
SQUAD FALL
BACK TOO!!
DON'T GET
NEAR MUZAN!!











ISN'T
GIYU
THERE
YET?!

THIS IS
THE
WRONG
WAY...

FALL
BACK!
RETREAT!!



IF MUZAN
RECOVERS,
TAMAYO'S
SACRIFICE
WILL BE FOR
NOTHING!

AGH!! HE'S
KILLING THE
CHILDREN
ONE AFTER
THE OTHER!



THAT'S
ENOUGH.



YOU'RE ALL
USELESS.

TONIGHT, I
WILL CRUSH
THE DEMON
SLAYERS.

I WILL KILL
THEM ALL.





CHAPTER 181: DISASTER

...AND
BECAUSE
OF THAT,
MUZAN HAS
SLAUGHTERED
SO MANY
OF OUR
FIGHTERS.

IT'S MY
FAULT. I
MADE THE
WRONG
CALL...

I WAS
TOO LATE.



MASTER
KIRIYA!

...WILL
AMOUNT
TO
NOTHING
BECAUSE
OF ME.



MASTER
KIRIYA!

...TO
DEFEAT
MUZAN...

ALL THAT
EVERYONE
HAS DONE
FOR THE
LAST FEW
CENTURIES...



MASTER
KIRIYA!



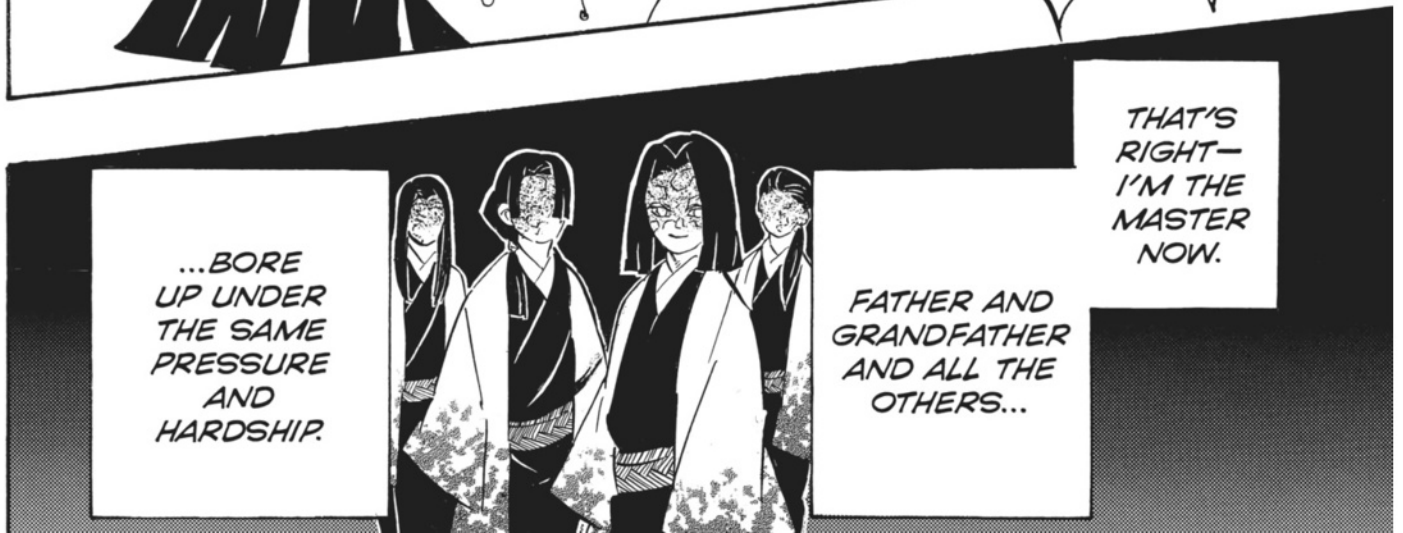


BE STRONG,
MASTER!!

HURRY UP
AND GIVE
THE NEXT
ORDER!!



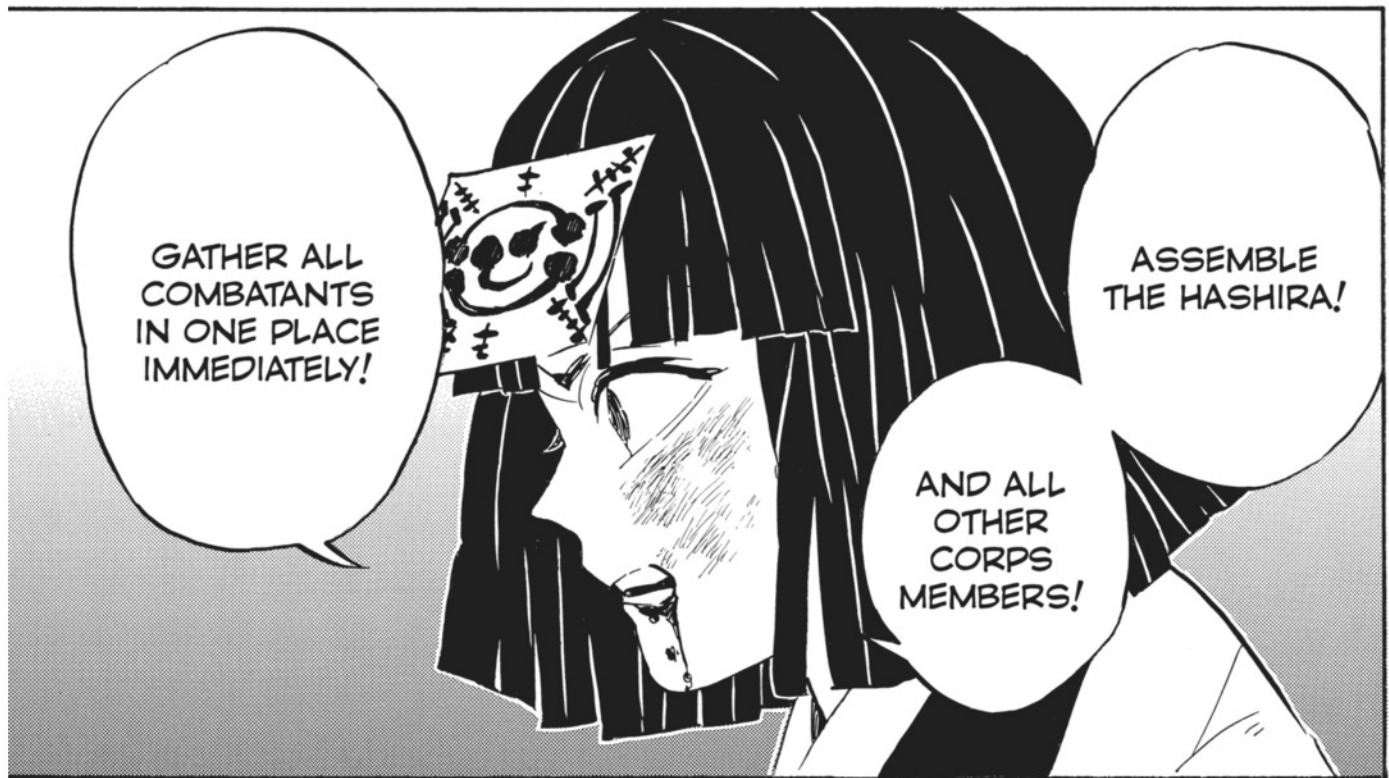
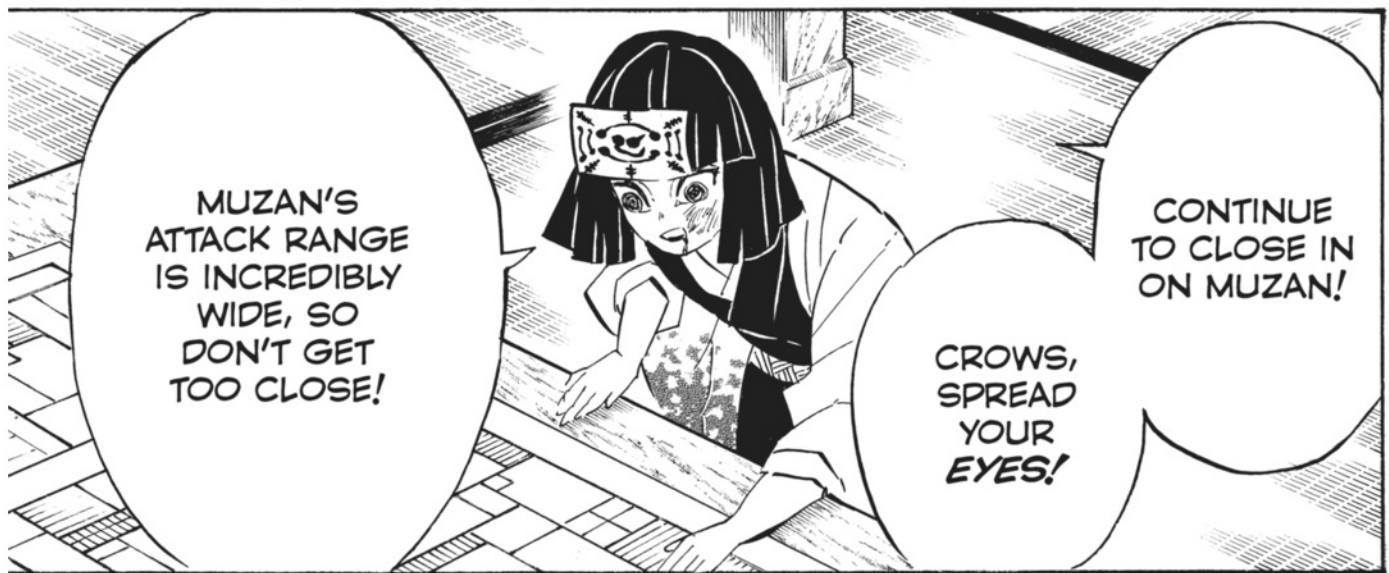
THIS
FIGHT
ISN'T
OVER
YET!!



...BORE
UP UNDER
THE SAME
PRESSURE
AND
HARDSHIP.

FATHER AND
GRANDFATHER
AND ALL THE
OTHERS...

THAT'S
RIGHT—
I'M THE
MASTER
NOW.





HE HAS
RETURNED!
THE
HASHIRA
MUST
GATHER!!

MUZAN
HAS
RETURNED
!!



NO WAY!!
WHILE WE WERE
STALLED HERE,
MUZAN CAME
BACK?!



YOU MUST
ASSEMBLE!!



I'VE JUST
BEEN WAST-
ING TIME
COMPARED
TO WHAT
THEY'VE
DONE!!

TOKITO AND
SHINAZU-
GAWA'S
YOUNGER
BROTHER
DIED.

BUT THEY
DEFEAT-
ED THE
UPPER-
RANK 1.



...SHE'S
DRAGGING
OUT THIS
GAME OF CAT
AND MOUSE,
SO I CAN'T
CUT OFF HER
HEAD AND
END THIS!

THE BIWA
WOMAN'S
BLOOD
DEMON
ART...

...ISN'T
HIGHLY
LETHAL,
BUT...



OTHERWISE,
SHE'LL
PREVENT
US FROM
JOINING
UP WITH
THE OTHER
HASHIRA!

I NEED TO
DO SOME-
THING TO
GET AWAY
FROM HER.

THIS
WOMAN
HAS HELD
UP TWO
HASHIRA!



OR...



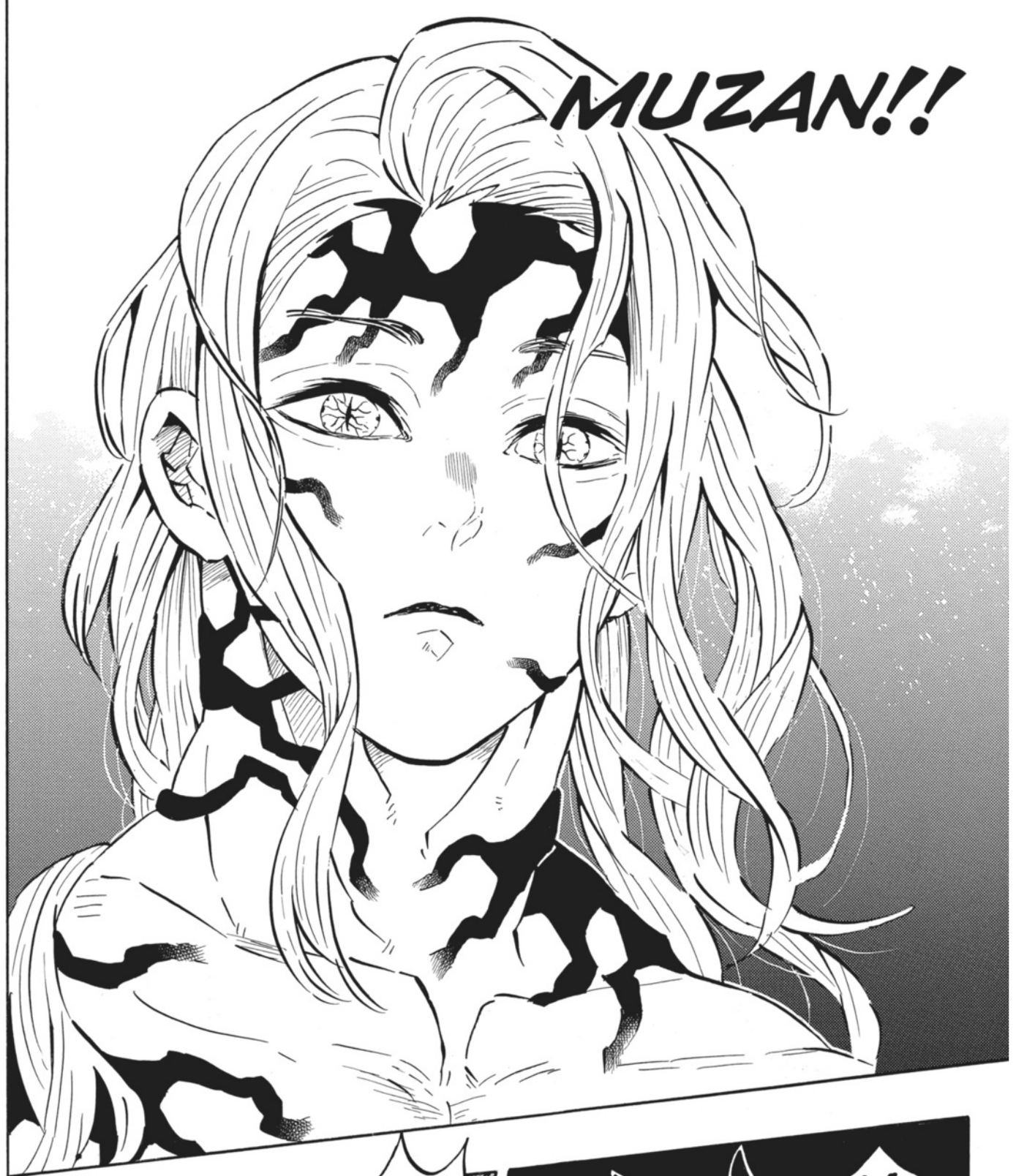
ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO JUST
DITCH THE
BIWA PLAY-
ER?!

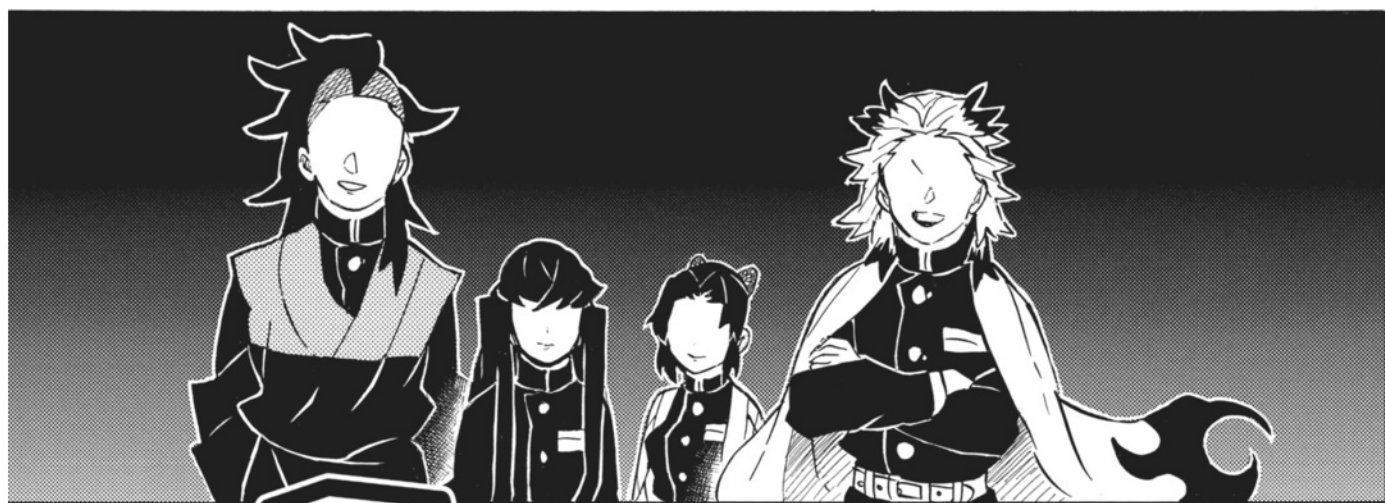
HUH?! WHAT
KIND OF
ORDER IS
THAT?!



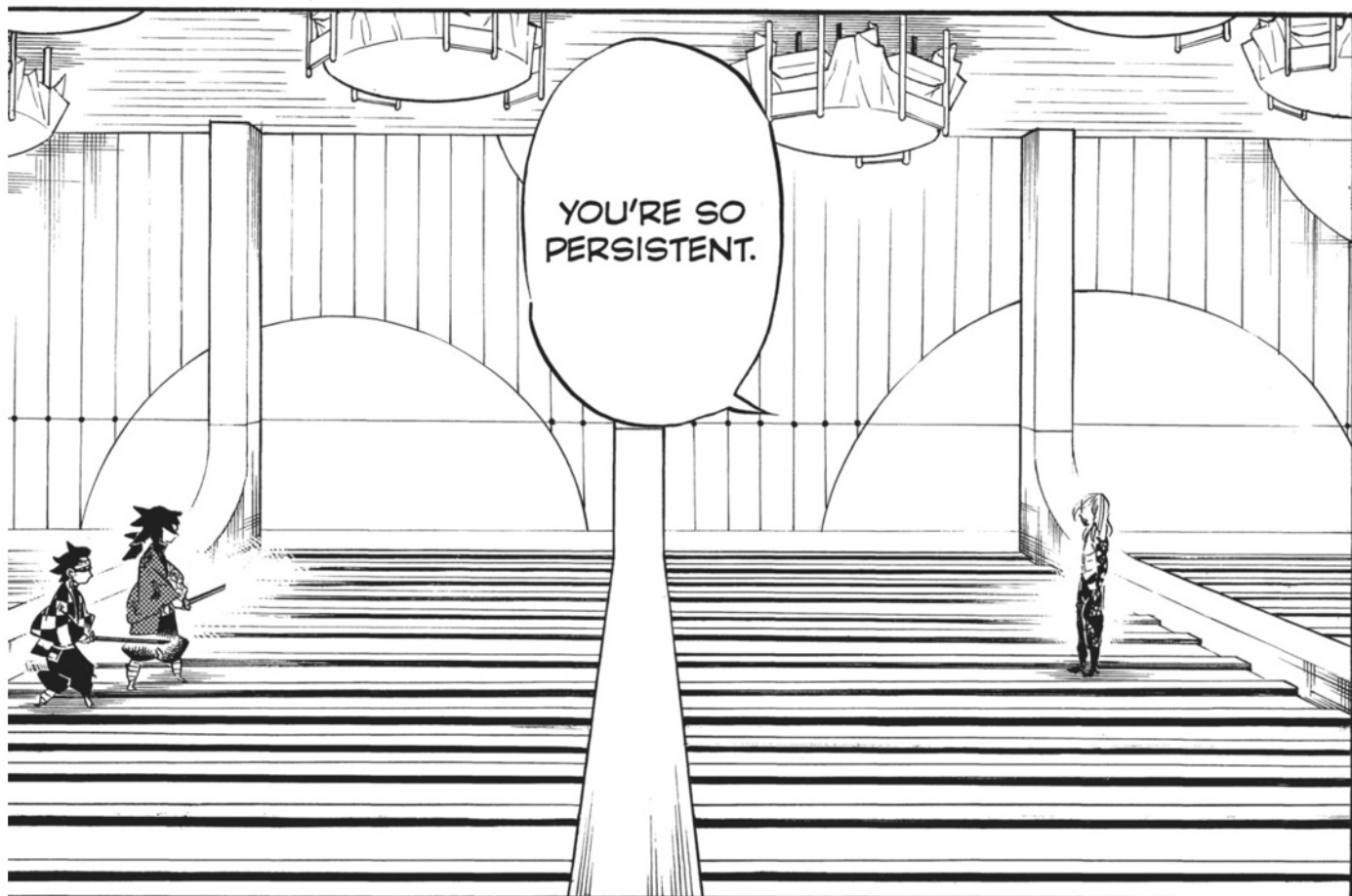
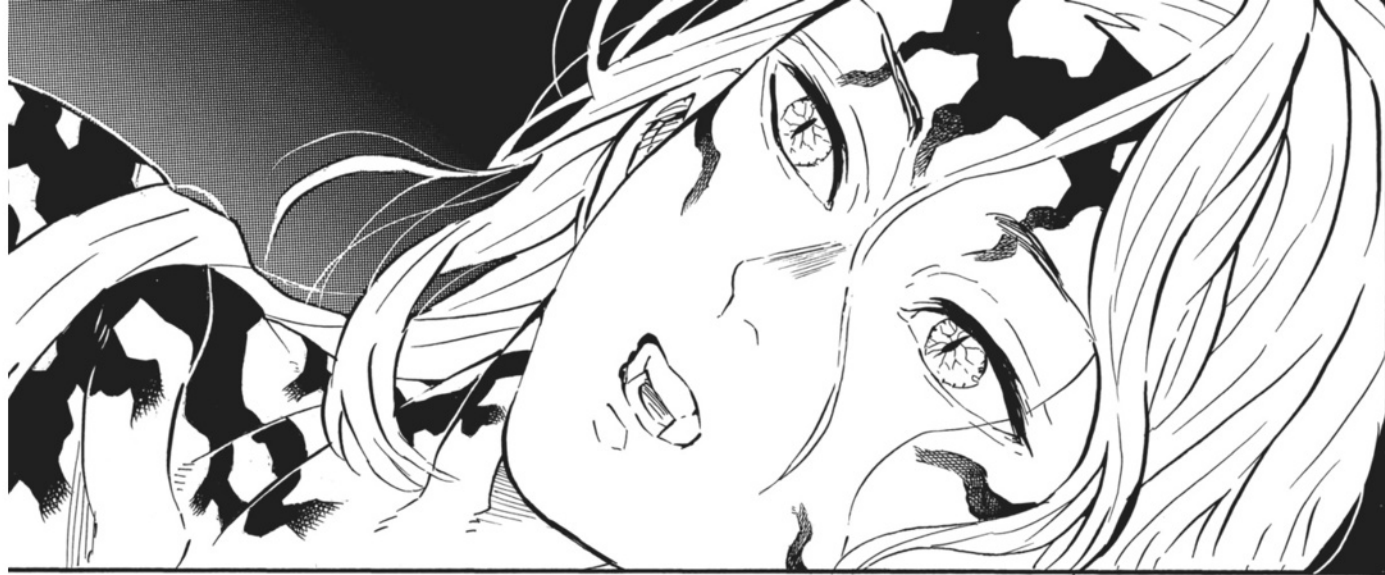


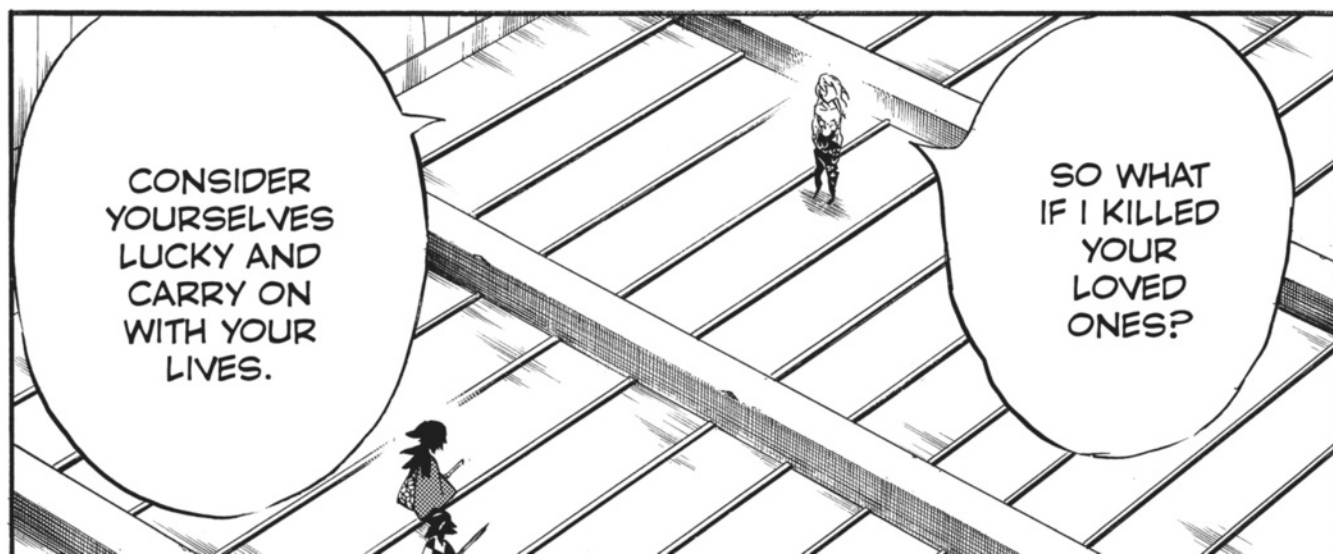
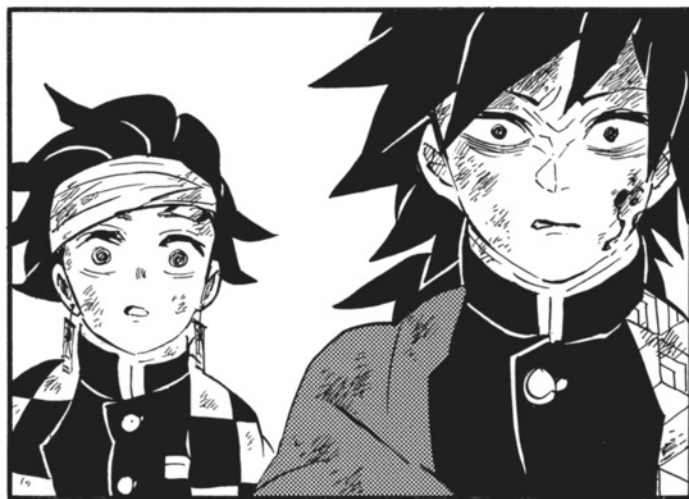


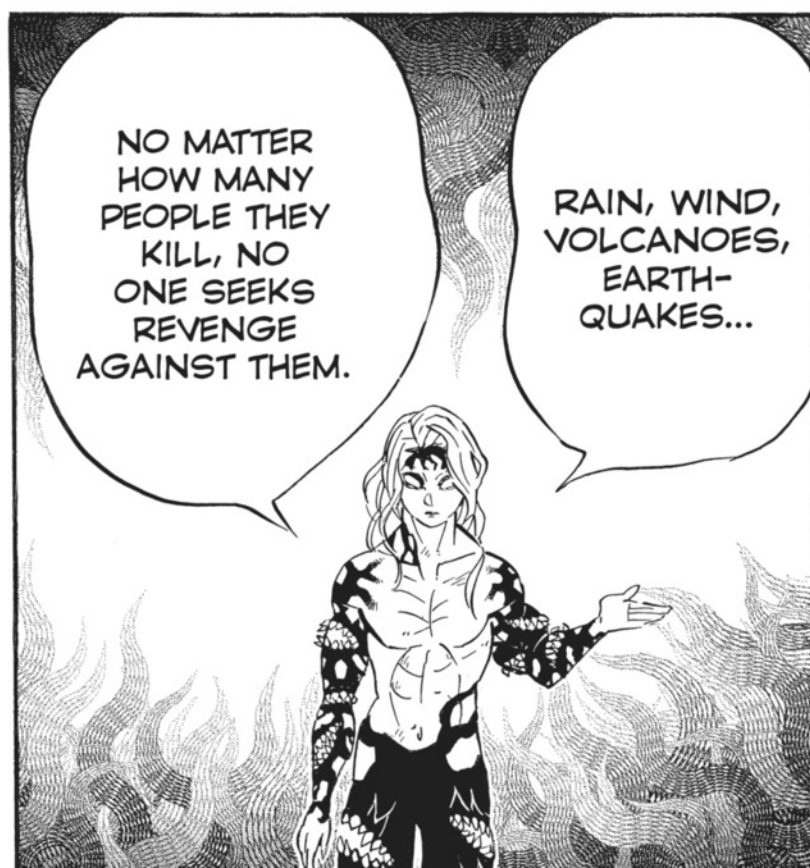


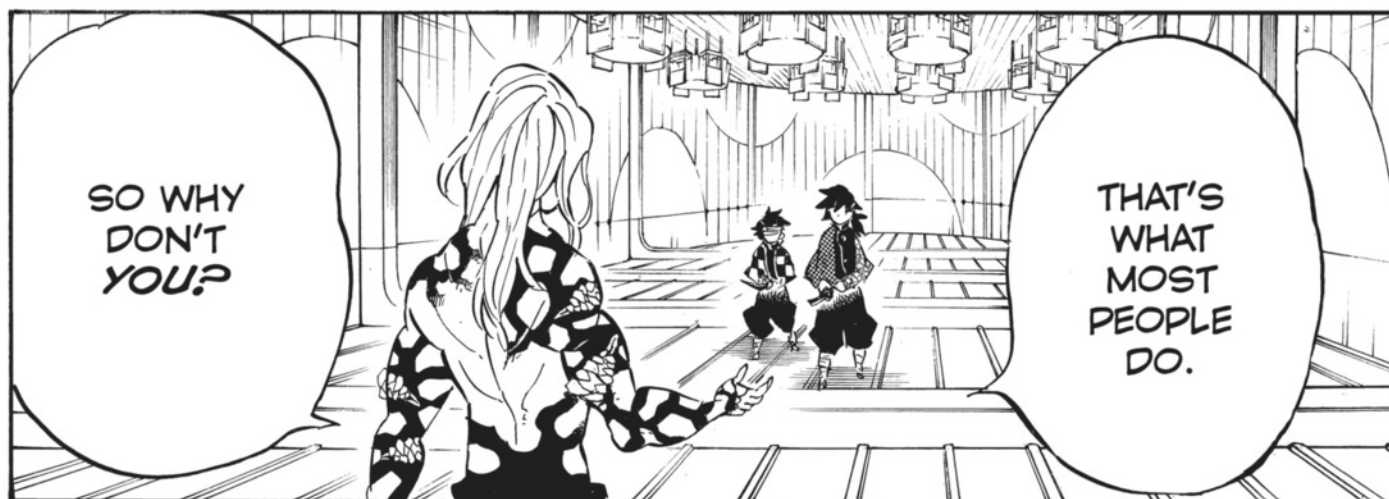
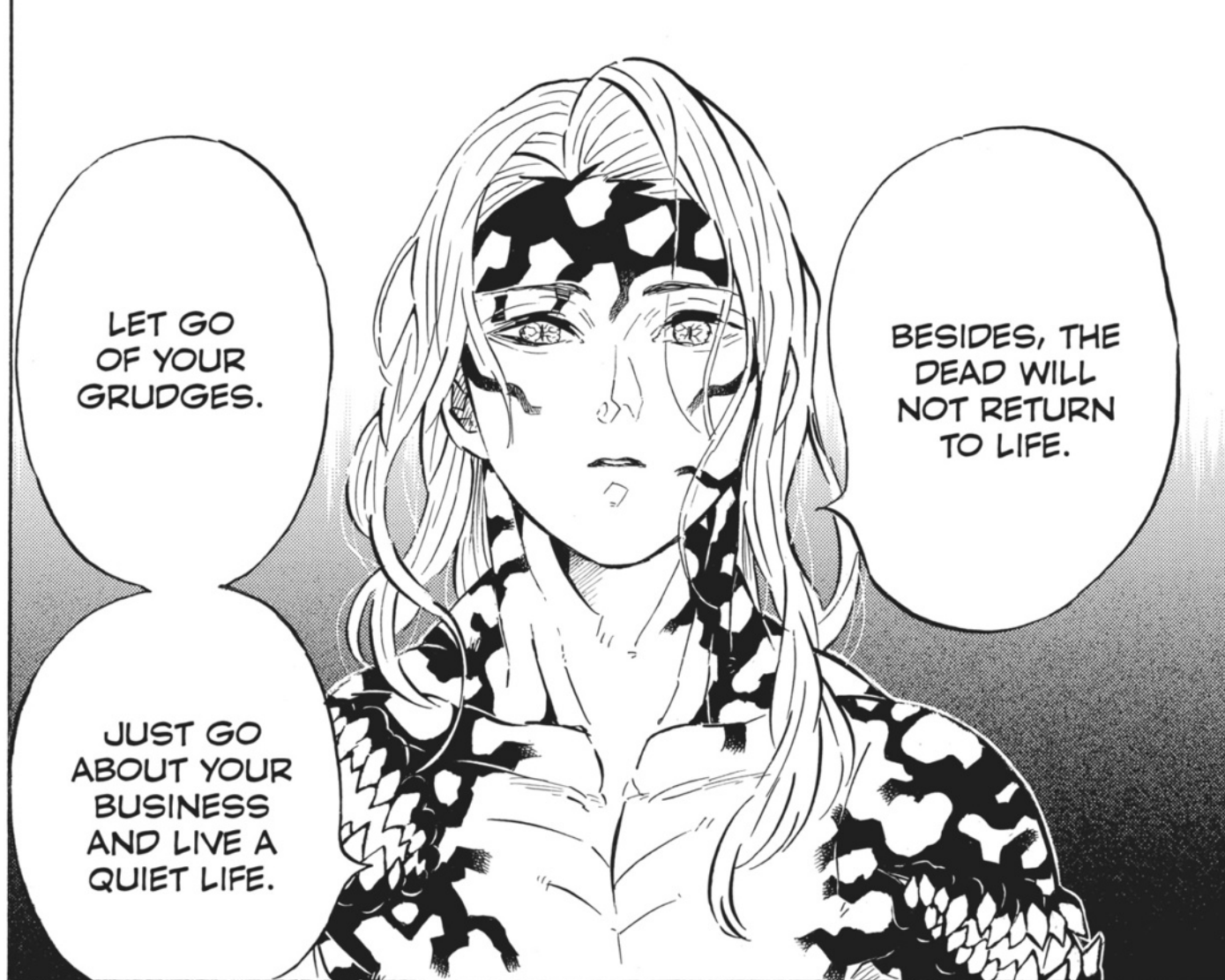


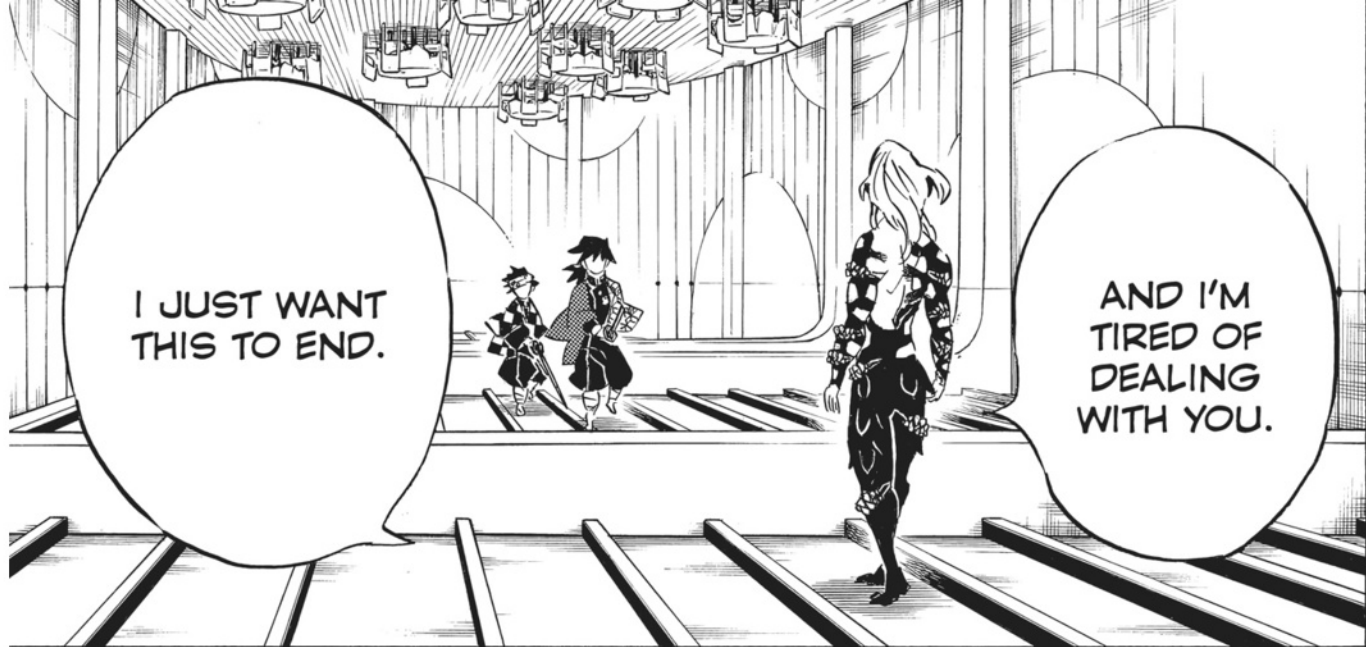












Physical Skills

Not so good



Kanata

Timid, fainted when a spider crawled across her hand, good at playing the koto.

Good



The Slapper



Kuina

Bold, doesn't mind insects, can touch them with her bare hands.

CHAPTER 182: RAGE

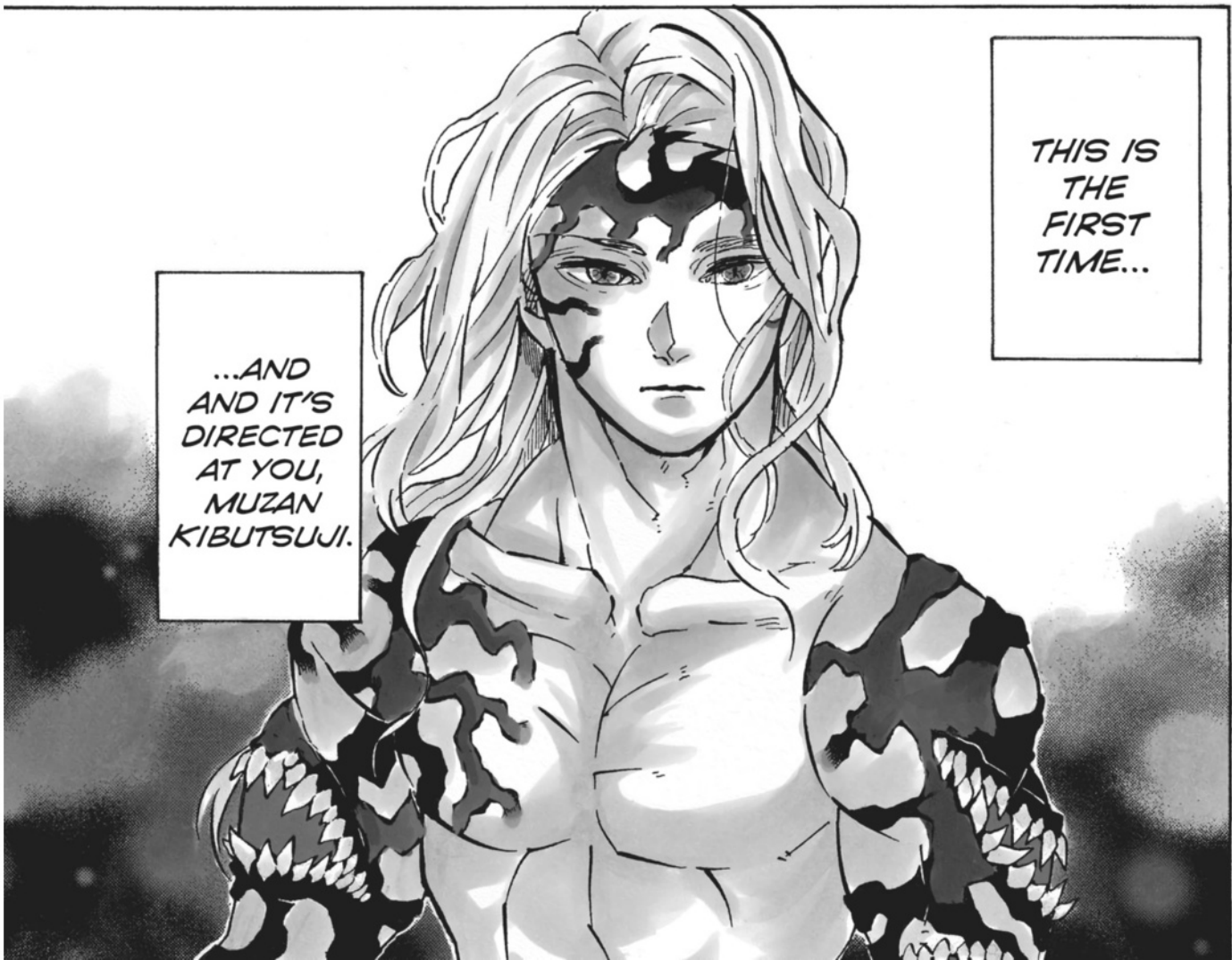


...TOWARD
A LIVING
BEING
BEFORE.

MY
STOMACH
IS
CHURNING
WITH
HATRED.



I HAVE
NEVER
FELT THIS
COLD...



...AND
AND IT'S
DIRECTED
AT YOU,
MUZAN
KIBUTSUJI.

THIS IS
THE
FIRST
TIME...



CHAPTER 182: RAGE

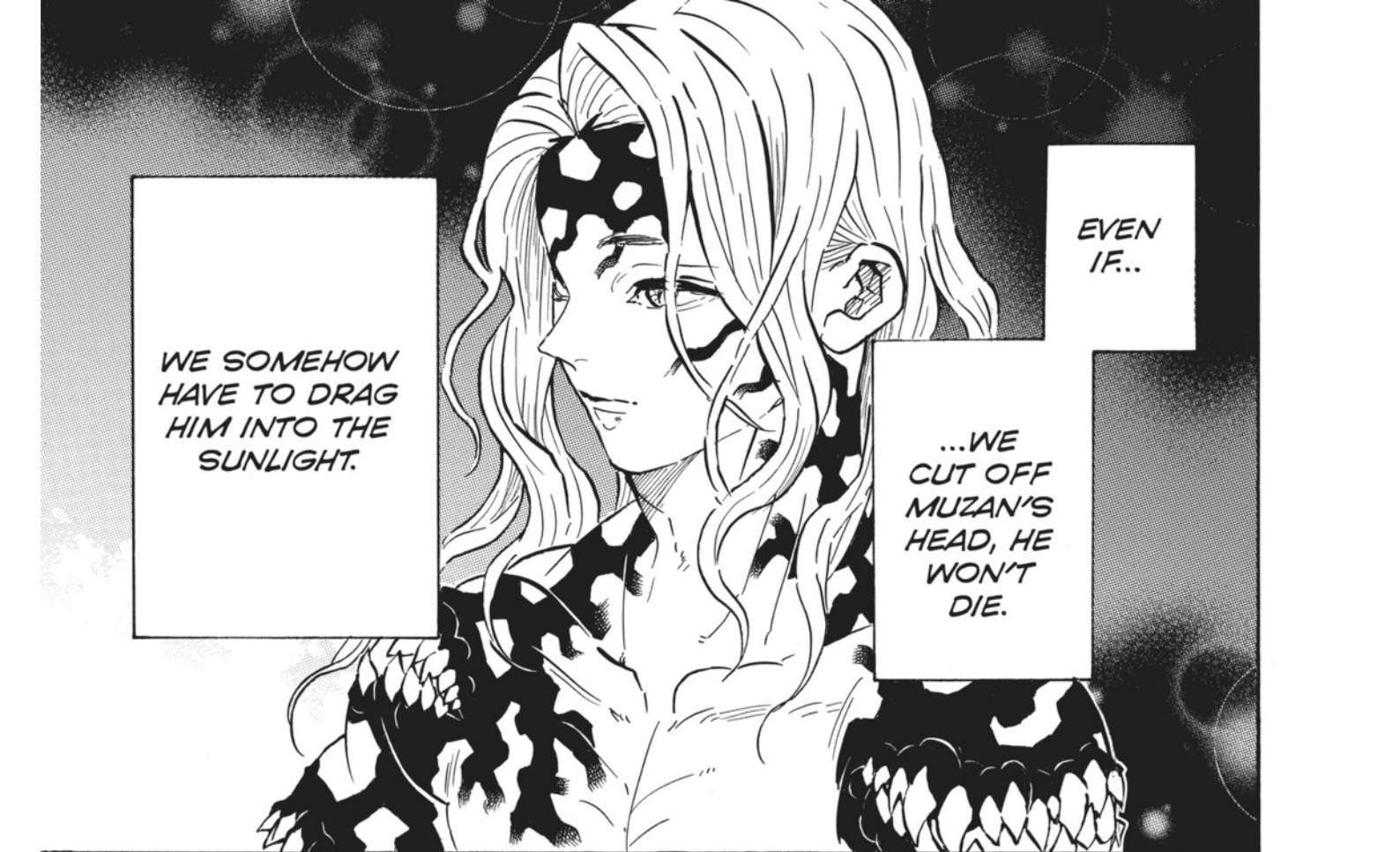


I slapped
Master
Ubuyashiki...

Kuina feeling guilty

Oh
no...

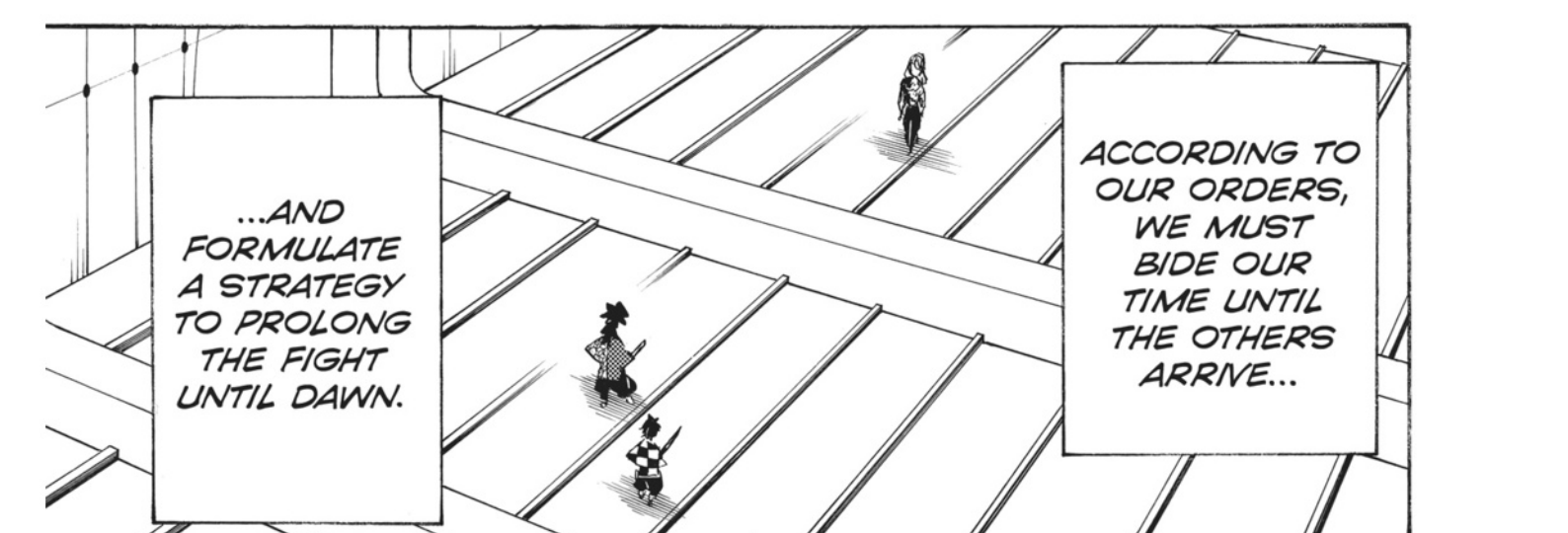




WE SOMEHOW
HAVE TO DRAG
HIM INTO THE
SUNLIGHT.

EVEN
IF...

...WE
CUT OFF
MUZAN'S
HEAD, HE
WON'T
DIE.



...AND
FORMULATE
A STRATEGY
TO PROLONG
THE FIGHT
UNTIL DAWN.

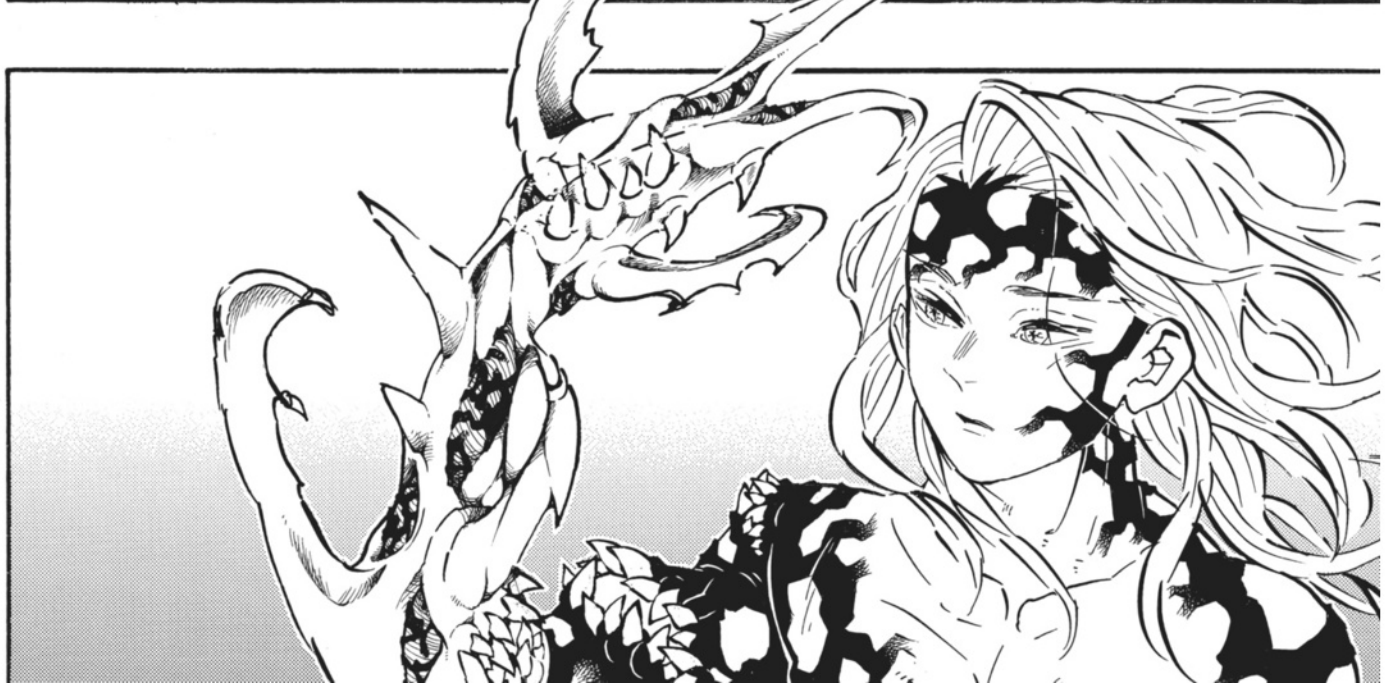
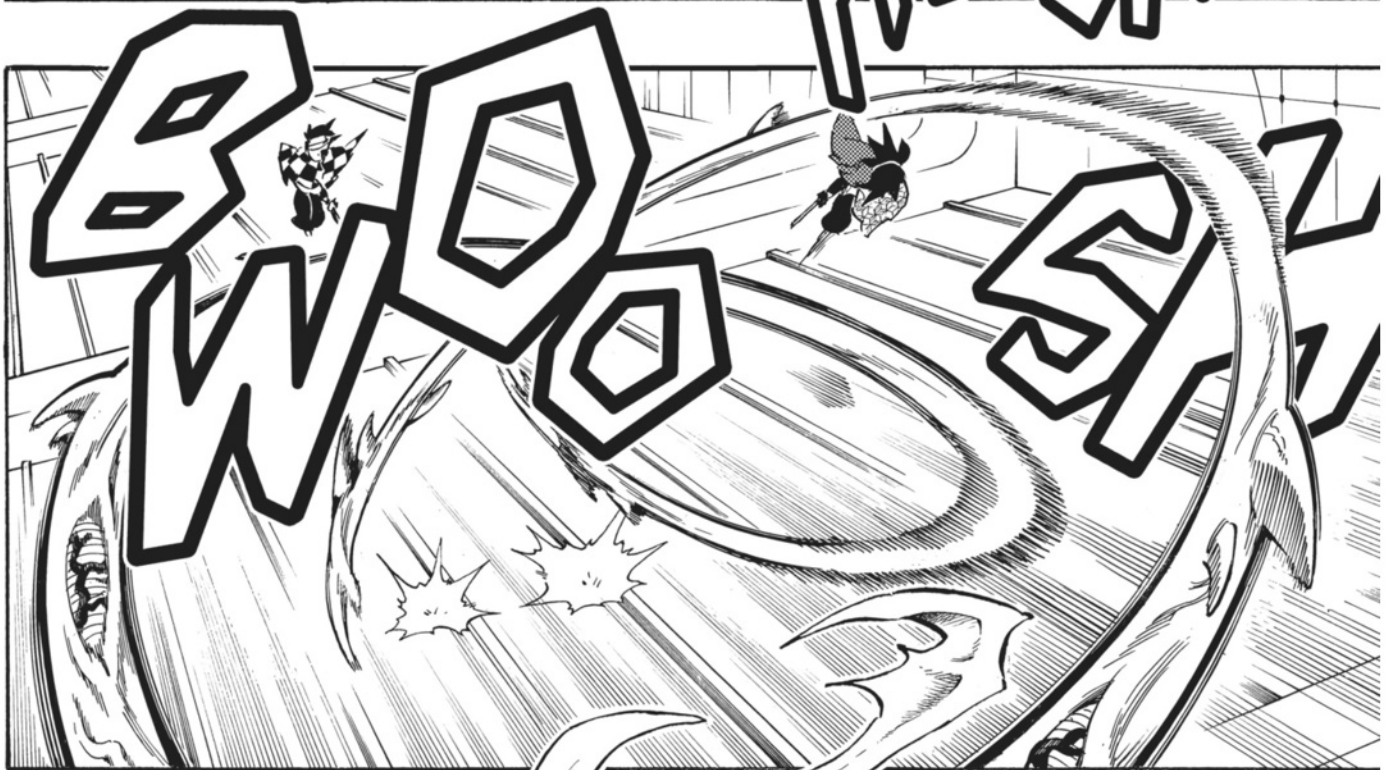
ACCORDING TO
OUR ORDERS,
WE MUST
BIDE OUR
TIME UNTIL
THE OTHERS
ARRIVE...



BECAUSE
THAT'S
WHEN
THE REAL
FIGHT WILL
BEGIN.

AND WE
MUST
SURVIVE
LONG
ENOUGH
TO DO
SO.

WE NEED TO
ASCERTAIN ANY
INFORMATION
REGARDING
MUZAN THAT
MAY BE
ADVANTAGEOUS
AND CONVEY IT
TO THE OTHERS.







**DEAD
CALM!!**



I CAN'T
FOLLOW HIM
WITH MY
EYES, SO I'M
DODGING
ON PURE
INSTINCT!

HIS
REACH IS
INCREDIBLY
LONG!!

AND
HE'S
FAST
!!

HIS
ARMS
!!

THEY'RE
AS SHARP
AS BLADES,
AND HE CAN
EXTEND
THEM!

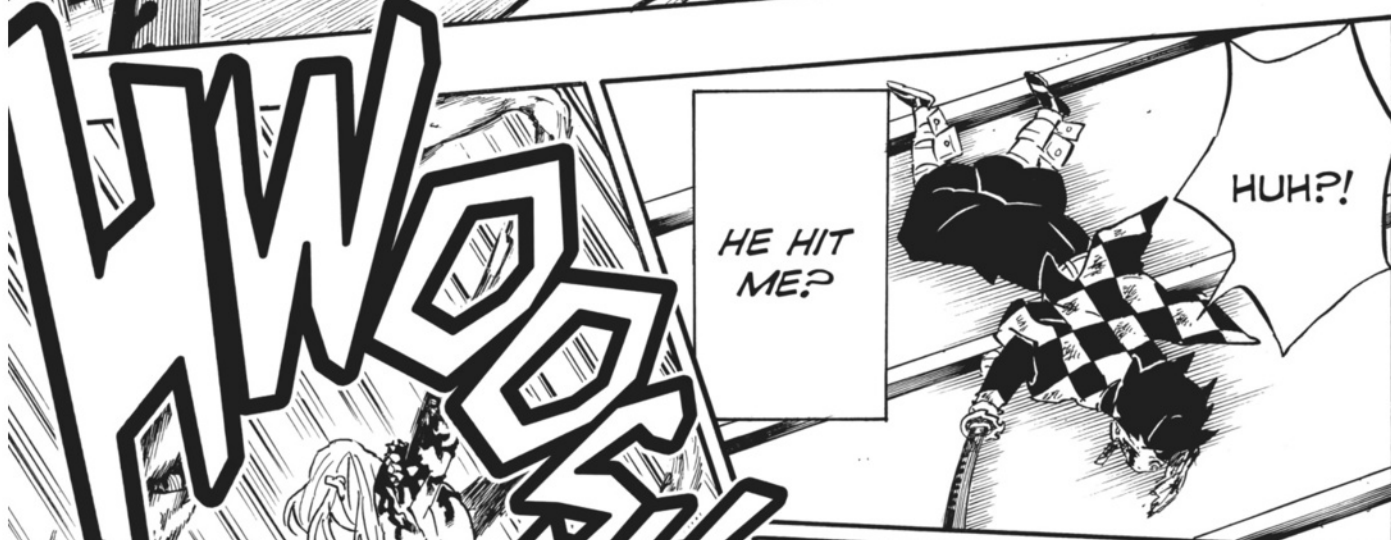


...TO
GET IN
CLOSE!!

I GOTTA
GET
PAST HIS
ATTACKS
...

I DID
IT!!







HE'S MORE
POWERFUL
THAN AN
UPPER-RANK
KIZUKI!!

DON'T GET
IN TOO
CLOSE!! WE
DON'T NEED
TO CUT
HIM!!

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM



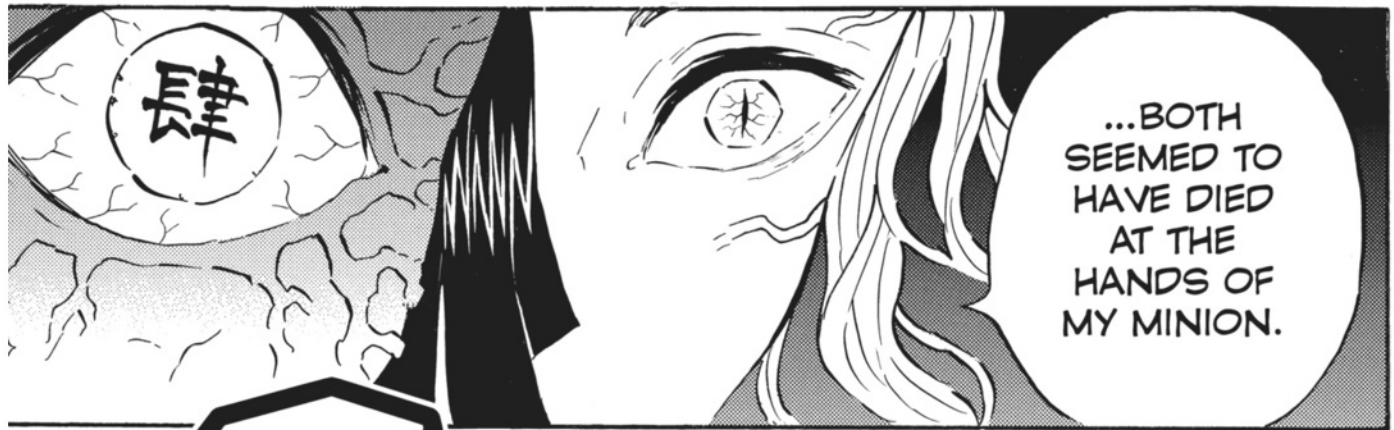
THIS IS
BAD!

THERE'S
NOTHING TO
SHIELD US!!
NO EXITS
EITHER!

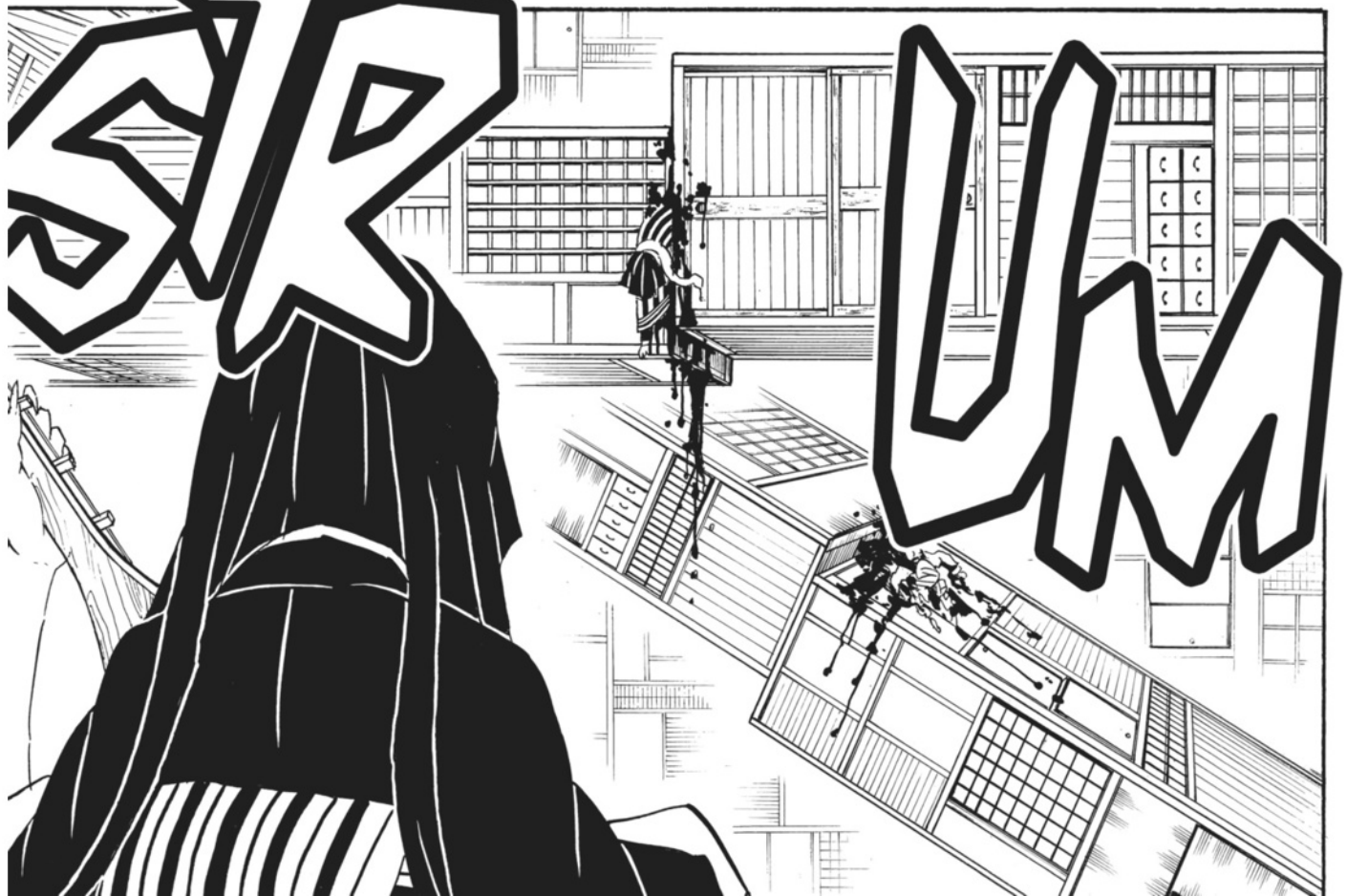
CAN ONLY
THREE
HASHIRA
ACCOMPLISH
SUCH A FEAT?

TRYING
TO BUY
TIME UNTIL
DAWN?

BUT THE
SUN CAN'T
REACH
THE INSIDE
OF THIS
CASTLE.



*EYE: 4









I'LL SNIFF
OUT THE
TRANS-
PARENT
WORLD!

I'LL
USE MY
NOSE!!

I CAN SEE
WITH MY
SENSE OF
SMELL!!

WHO
CARES
IF HE
SMASHED
MY EYE?!

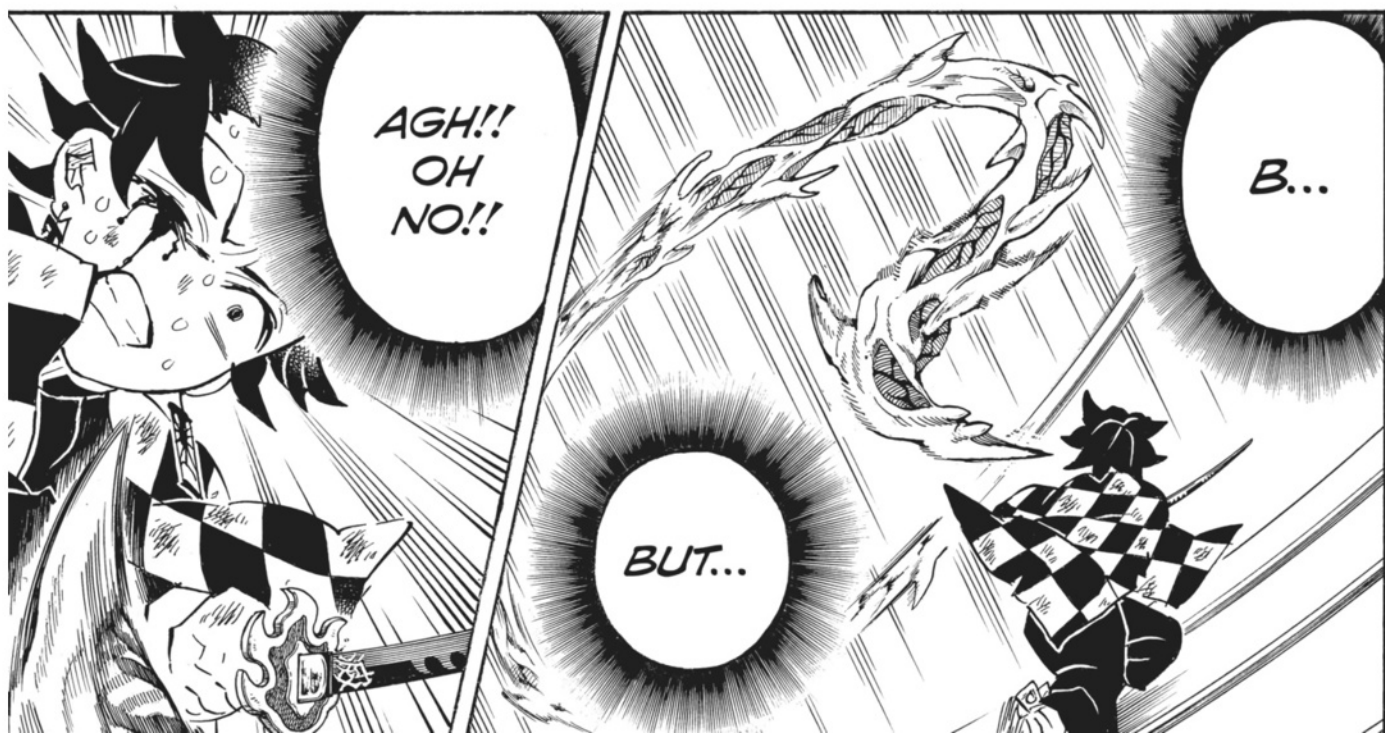


...MAIN-
TAIN MY
BREATH-
ING!!

BUT
MUZAN'S
ATTACK'S
...

AND I
CAN'T
...

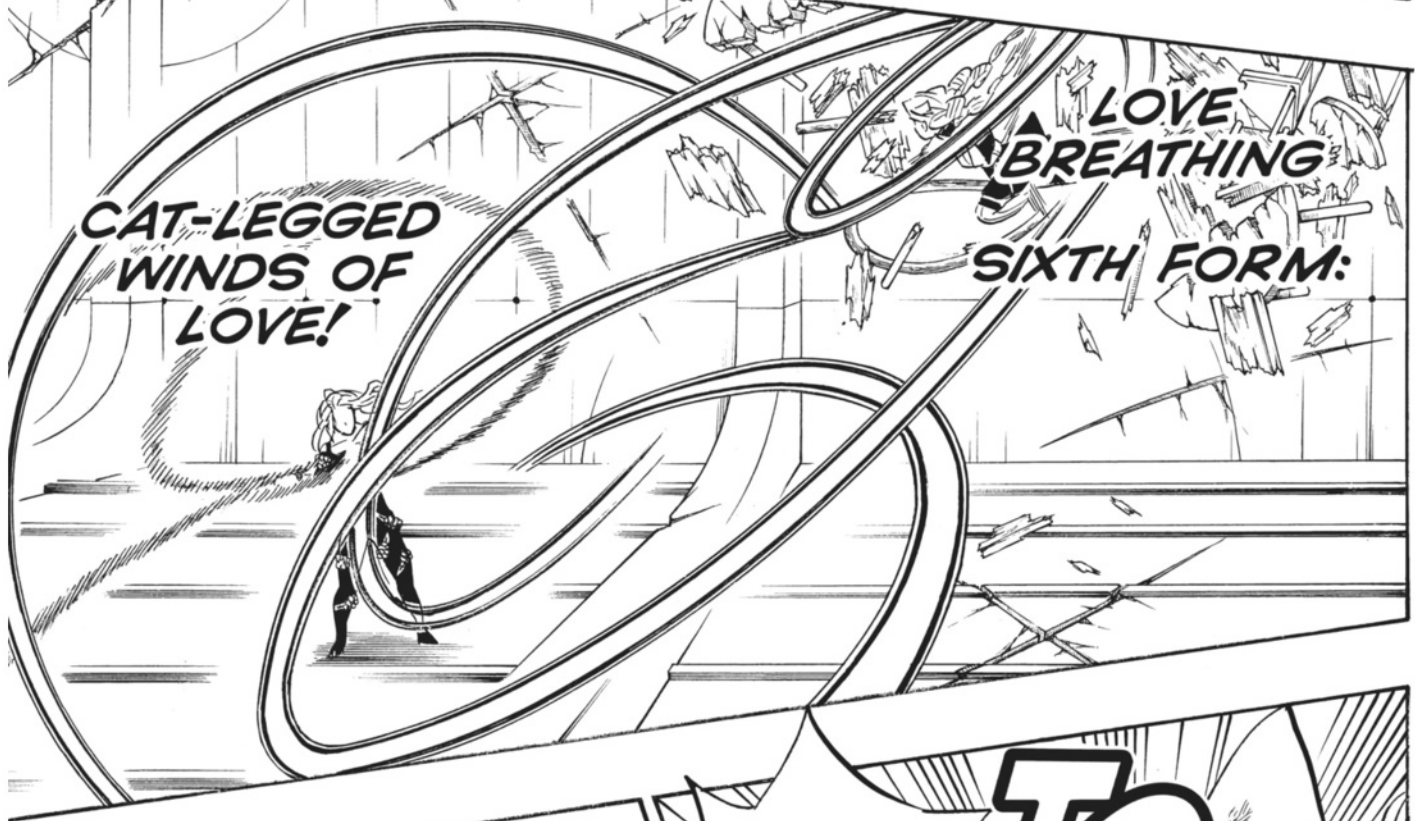
...ARE TOO
FAST TO
SMELL!





**SHE'S
ALIVE?!**

KANROJI?!



**CAT-LEGGED
WINDS OF
LOVE!**

**LOVE
BREATHING
SIXTH FORM:**

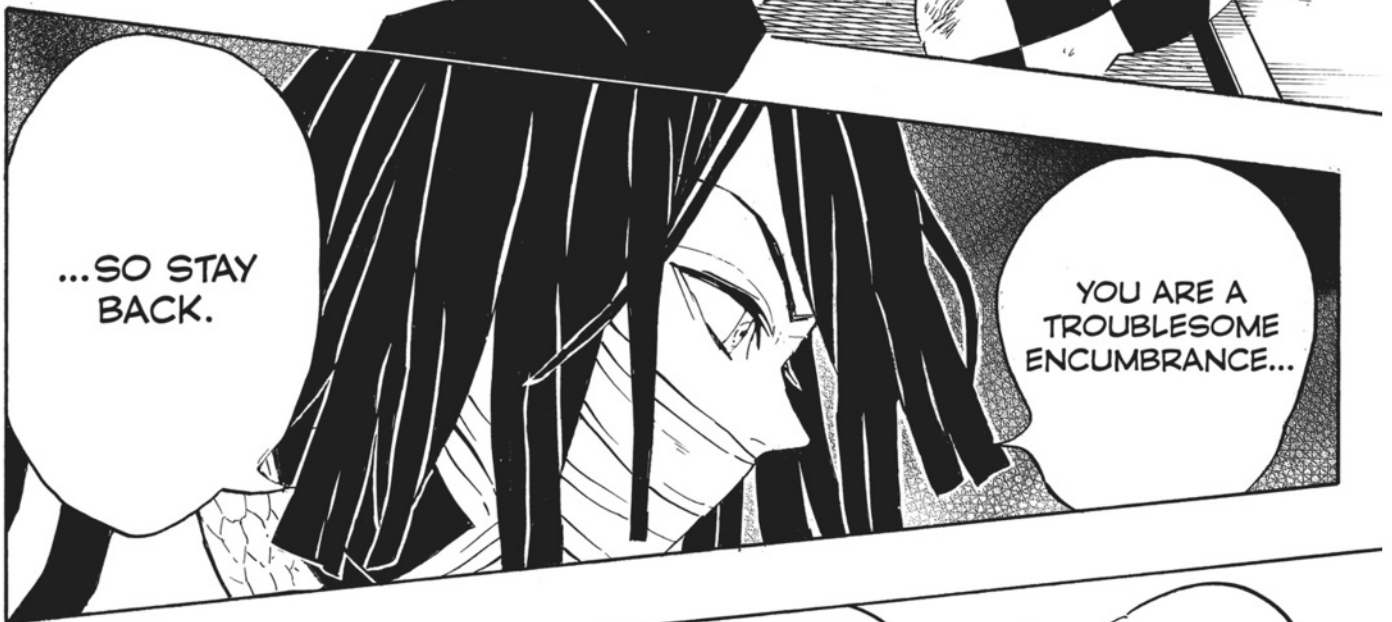


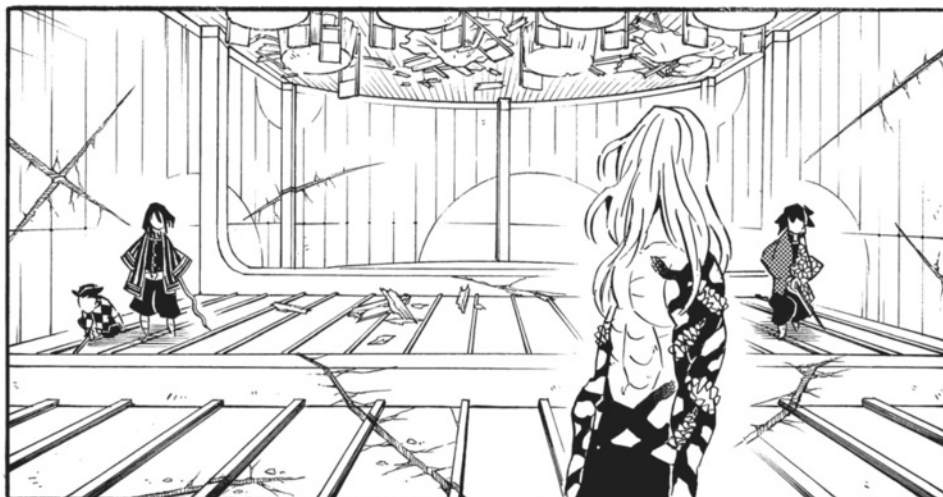
**I'VE GOT
HIM!!**

TOMP

GANK

**WHAT?! HE'S
UNHARMED!!
I'VE NEVER
BEEN SO
SHOCKED!!**





HOW ARE
THEY HERE?
THEY SHOULD
BE DEAD!



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING...

...NAKIME
?!



HOW
CAN
THIS
BE?

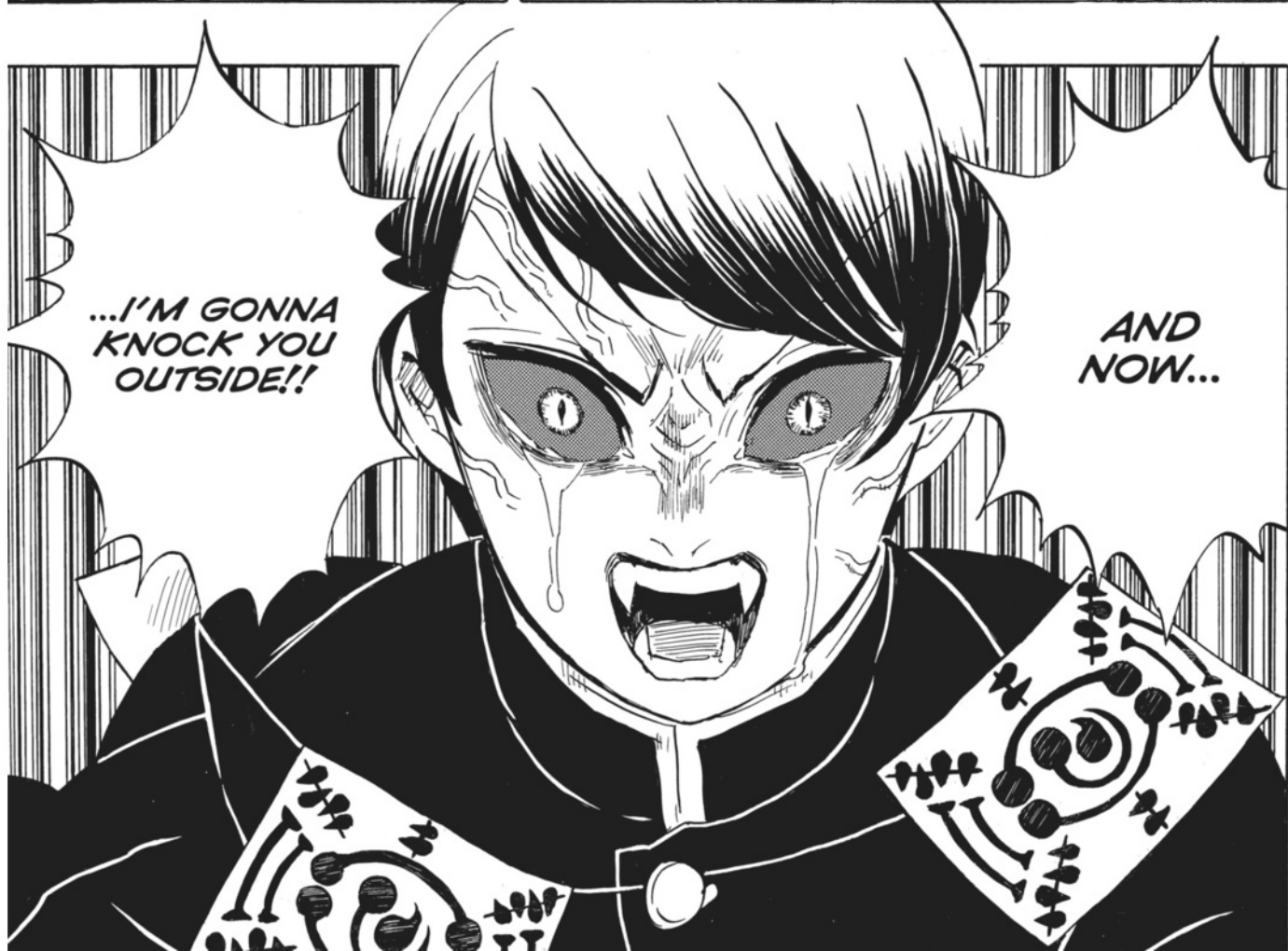
CLAP



NAKIME
...

FWOOO





*Demon Slayer Corps uniform tailor
Masao Maeda*

A.

*No! Of course not!
Why do you say that?
They just look that way
because you have a dirty
mind! Are you crazy?!
I can't believe you! And
I'm talking fast? That's
your imagination. You
really are annoying. I'm
not angry. But I'm
leaving now. Why are
you calling for
Shinazugawa?! No,
don't!!*

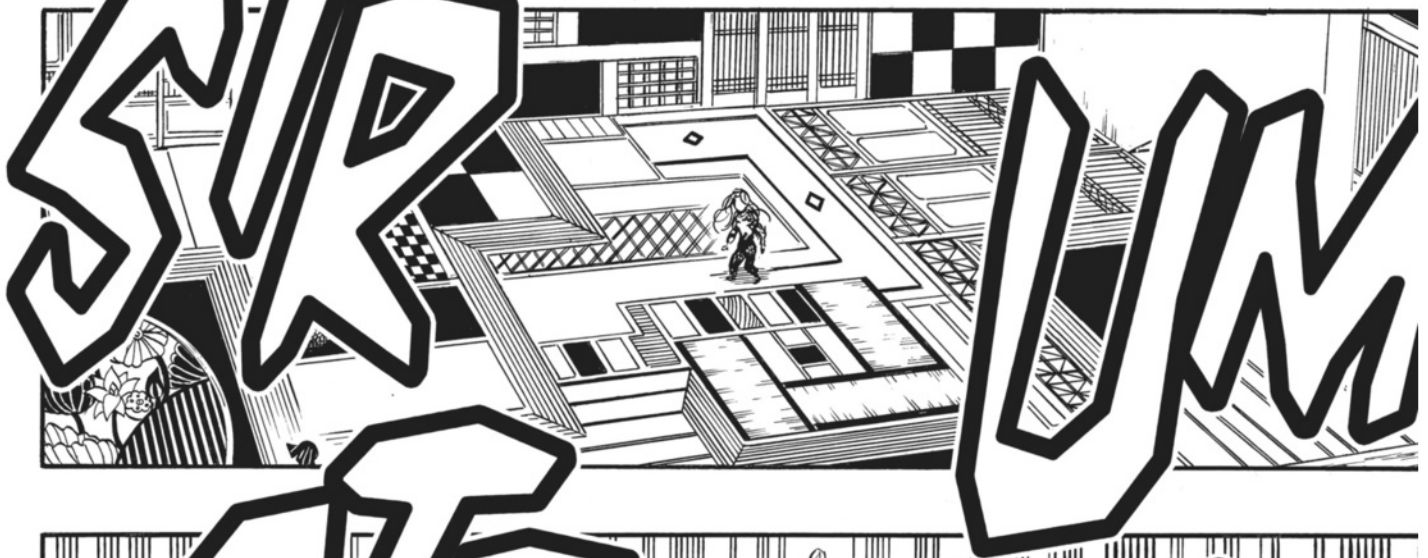
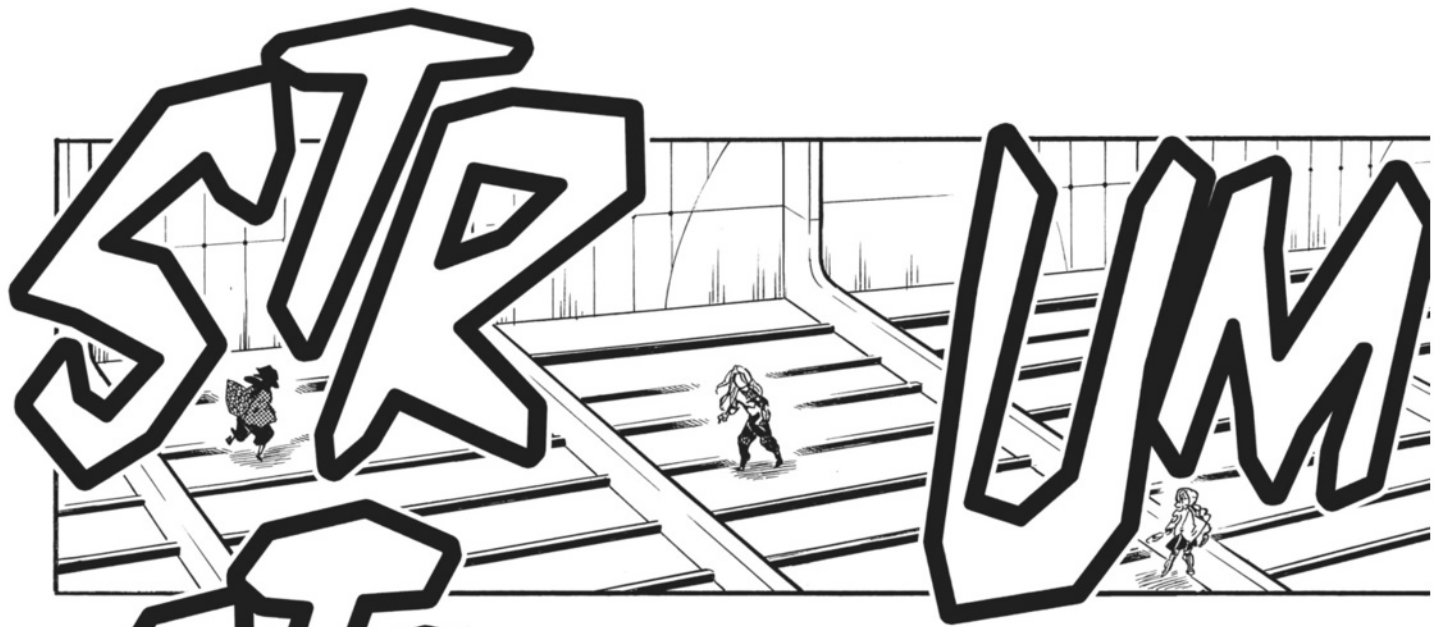
Q.

*Are
Kanao's
culottes
getting
shorter
and
shorter?*



CHAPTER 183: A CLASH OF WILLS







LIKE! I'M JUST
GONNA DIE
RIGHT NOW!
HE'S SO SCARY!
I'M EVEN TALK-
ING WEIRD!!



AIEEE!! HE'S
REALLY SCARY!
SCARIER THAN
ANY DEMON I'VE
EVER SEEN!

YKES

Who're
you?!

TOMIOKA
AND THE
OTHERS WERE
IN MORE
DANGER THAN
I THOUGHT!!

I CAN'T
TAKE
THIS, SO
HURRY UP
ALREADY!



I WISH
HIMEJIMA
WOULD
GET HERE
SOON!

THE HASHIRA
PRETENDING
TO DIE WILL
ALL BE FOR
NOTHING!

He always
looks so
bitter...



AND YUSHIRO!
THAT MYSTERI-
OUS DEMON
KID WHO'S
HELPING US!

UNLESS YOU'RE
A MORON, YOU'LL
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I SAY AND
COOPERATE.

LISTEN.

I'M A DEMON,
BUT I'M ON
YOUR SIDE.

MEANWHILE,
YOU RUN
AROUND LIKE
AN IDIOT TO
BE A DECOY.

I'LL HANDLE
THE BIWA
DEMON.

...NOT A
MORON.

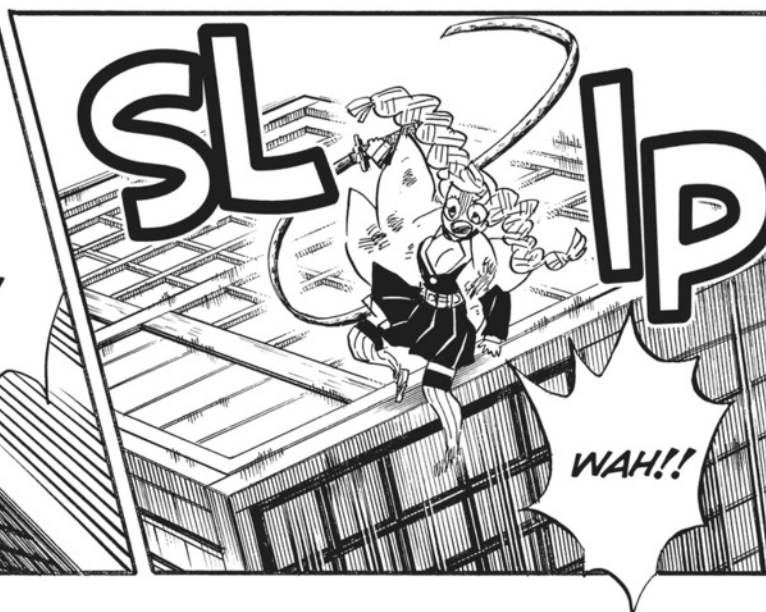
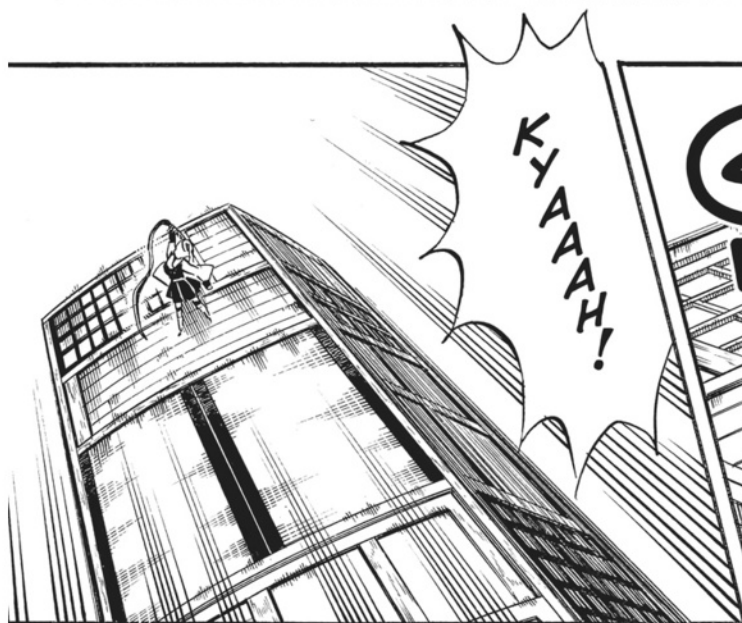
I'M...

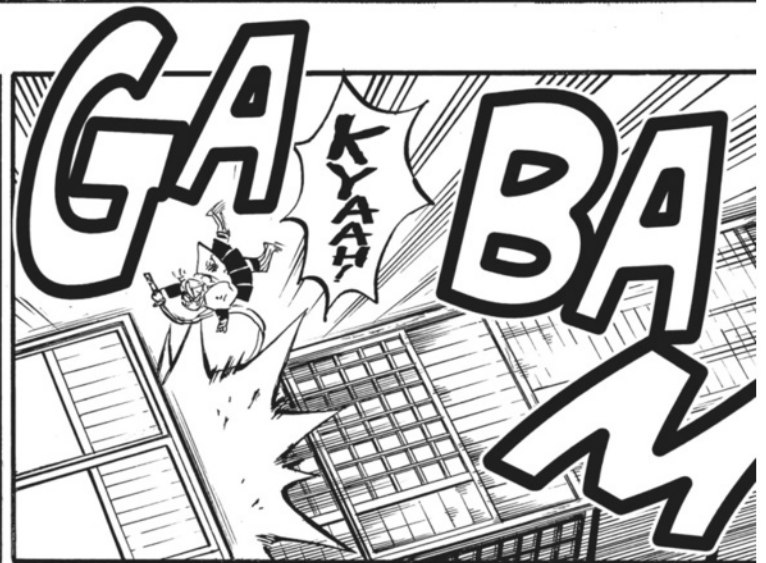
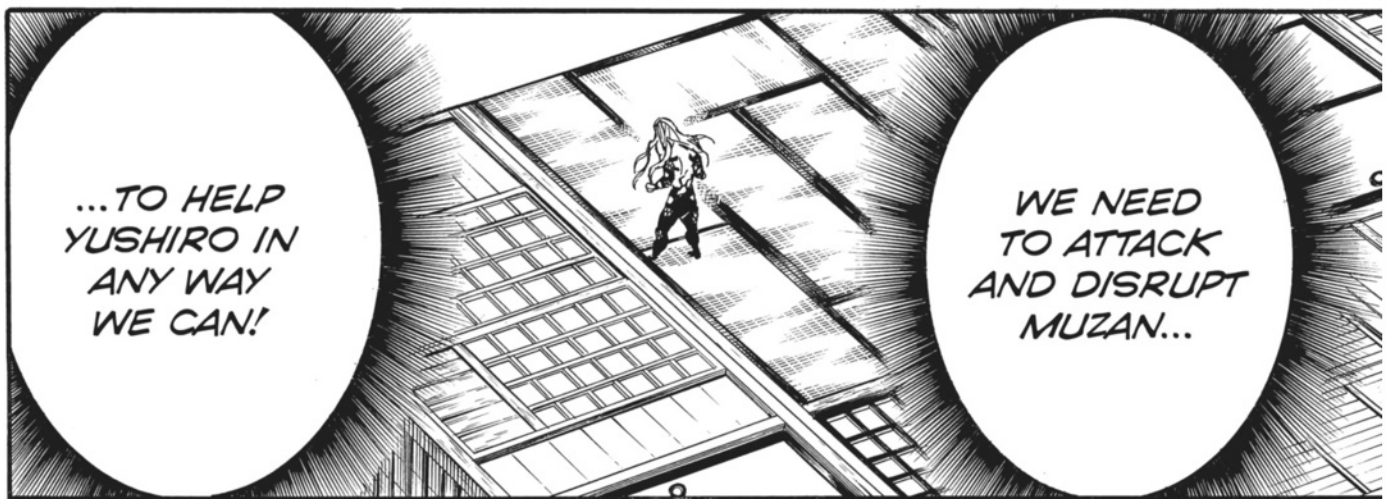
OKAY.

I'LL INFILTRATE
HER BRAIN,
REMOVE HER
FROM MUZAN'S
CONTROL AND
HIJACK HER
MIND!

I'LL SNEAK
UP CLOSE
TO HER...

...AND
HIJACK
HER
SENSE
OF SIGHT.





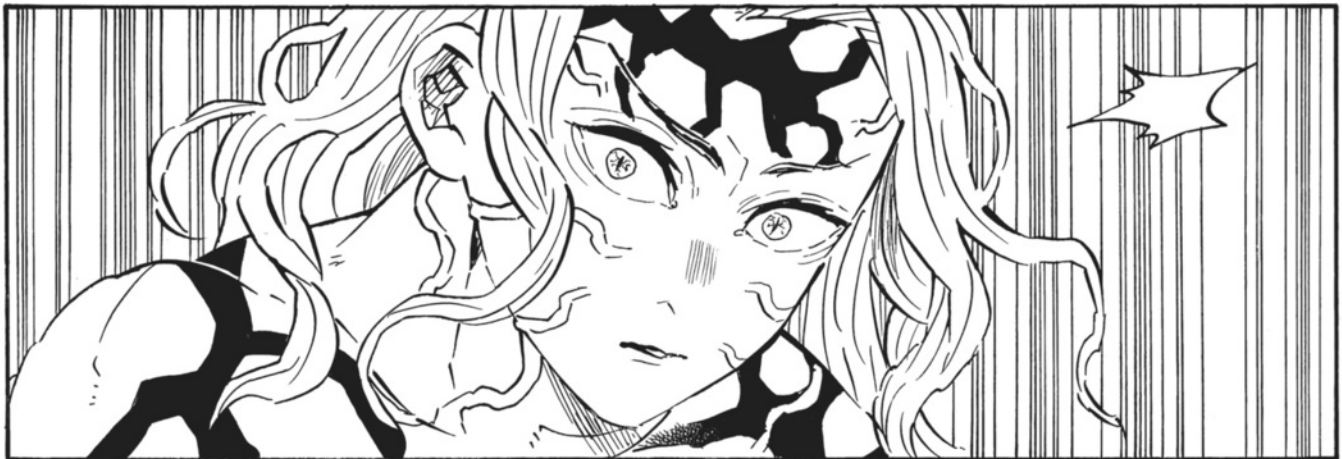
I CAN'T SEE
WHO IT IS,
BUT SOME-
ONE IS NEAR
NAKIME.

STAY CLOSE
TO MUZAN AND
DON'T GET
SEPARATED
FROM THE
OTHERS!!

IT MUST BE
TAMAYO'S
DEMON. HE'S
GOT GUTS,
BUT I'M GOING
TO KILL HIM
ANYWAY.



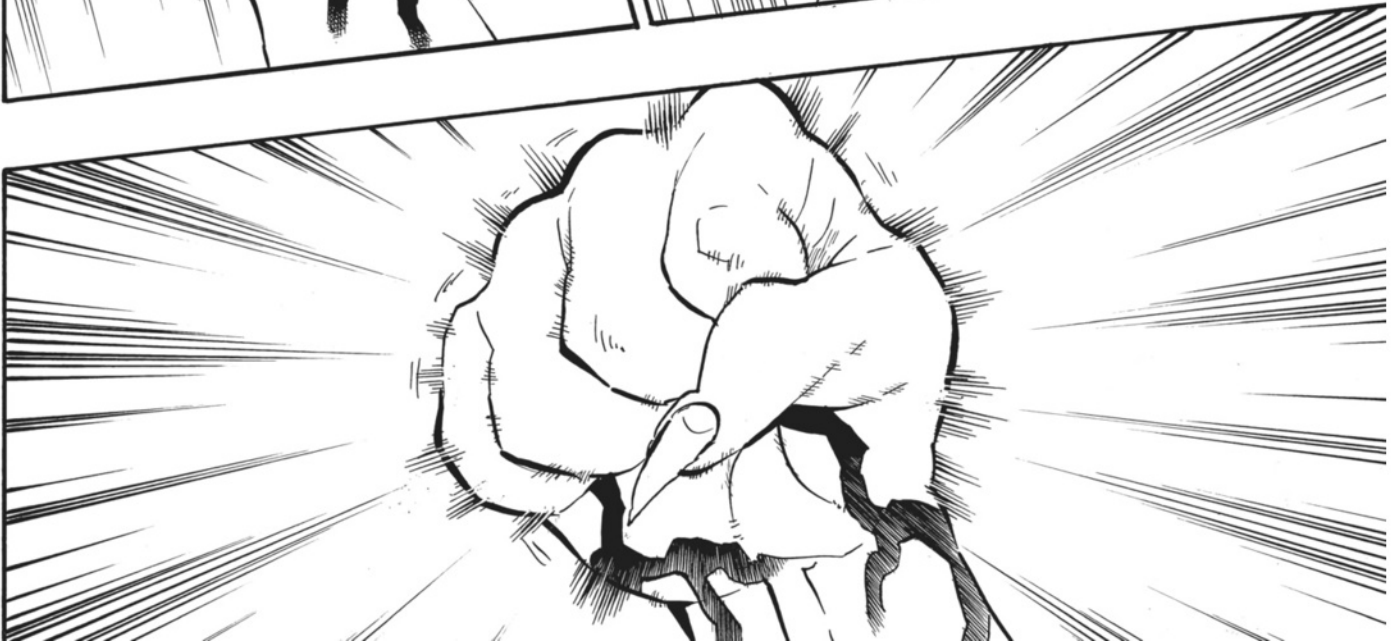


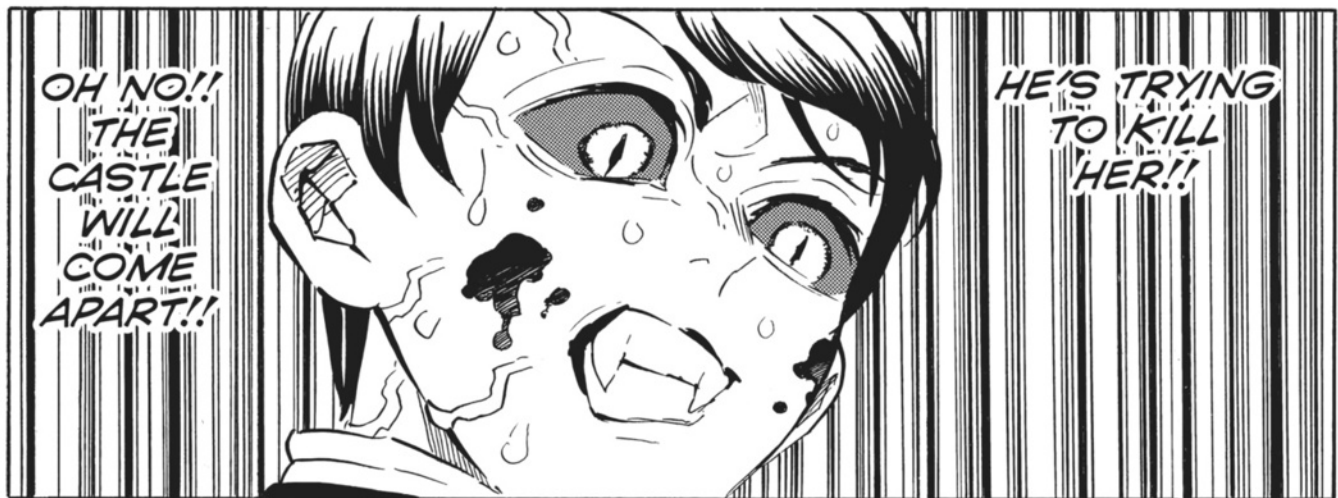




WHAT
PESTS!

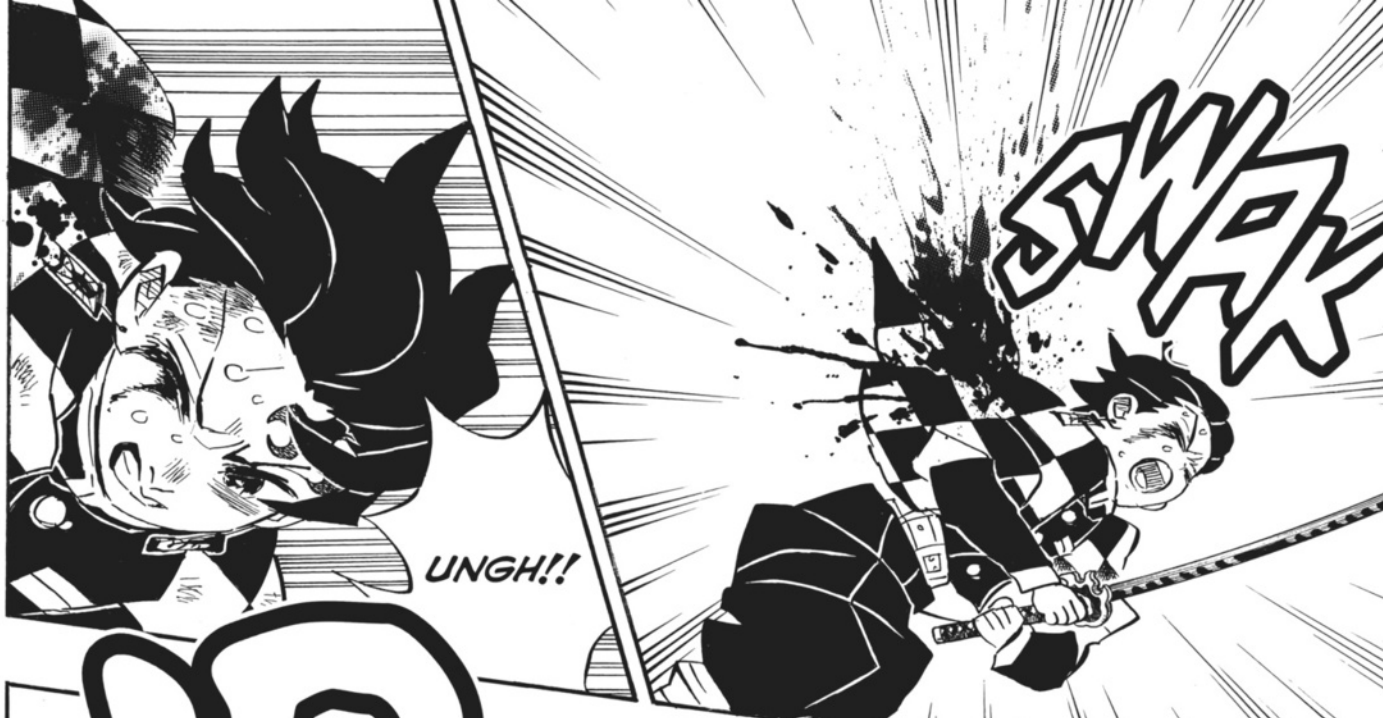






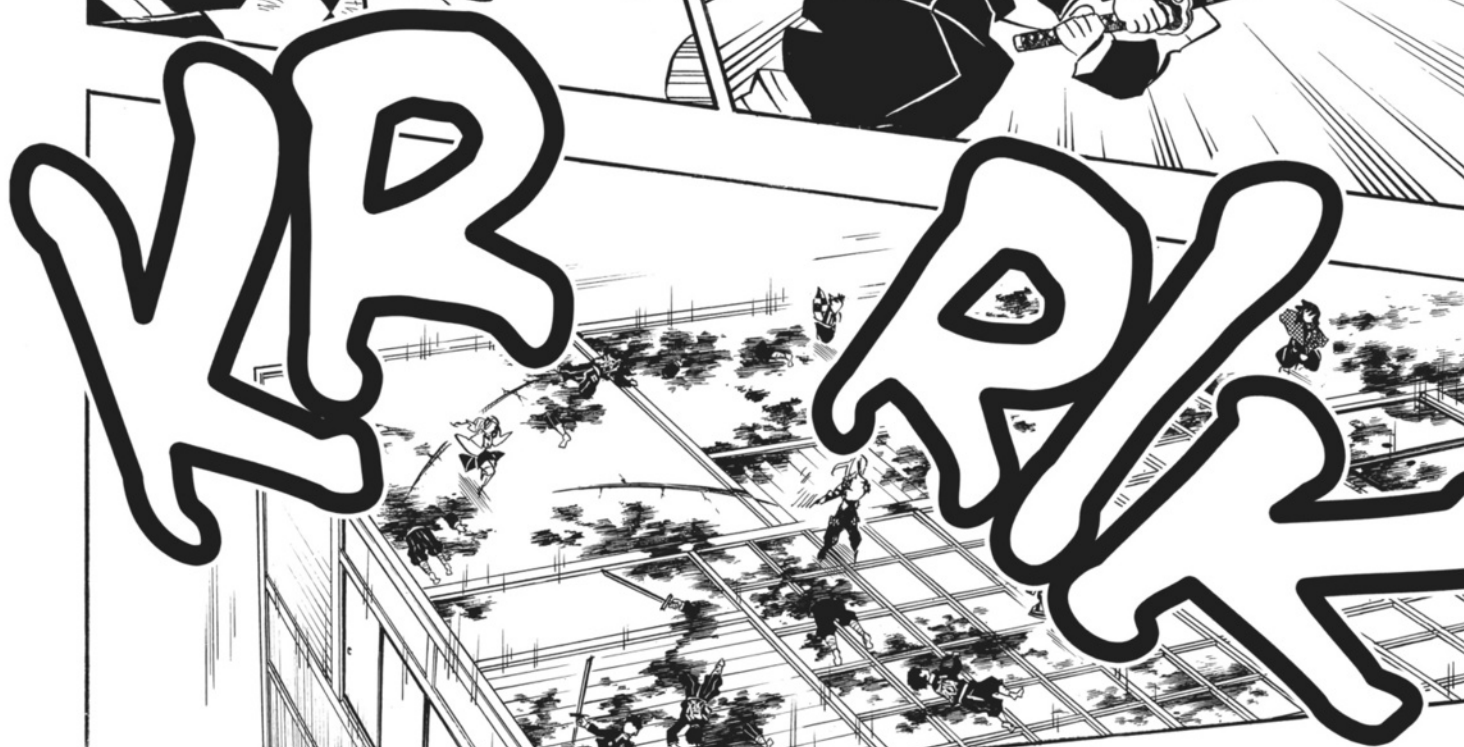






UNGH!!

SWAR



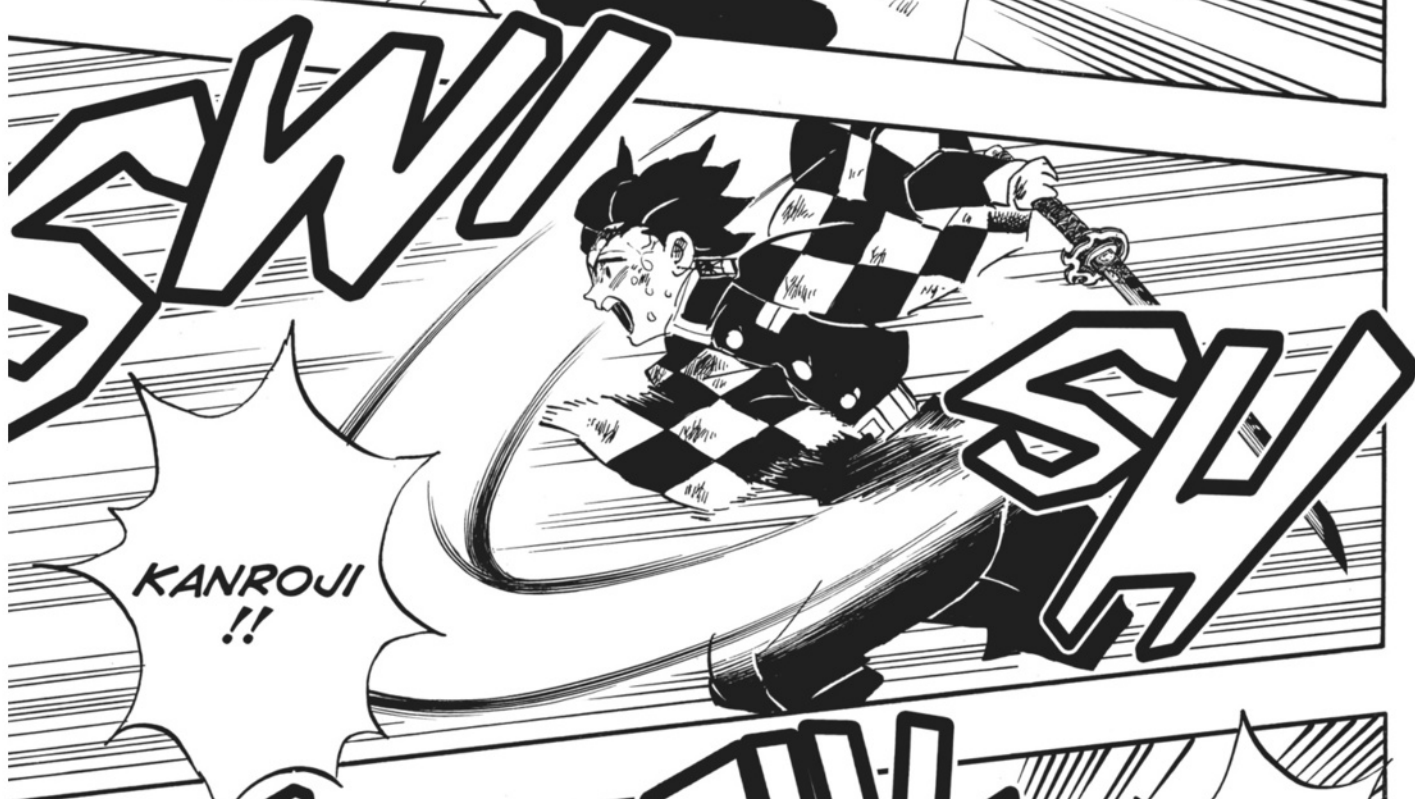
WAAH!

THAT CREAK-
ING SOUND!!
THE CASTLE IS
BREAKING UP!



THE
BUILDING IS
RISING...?!

IF WE DON'T
GET OUTSIDE,
EVERYONE BUT
MUZAN WILL
DIE!!





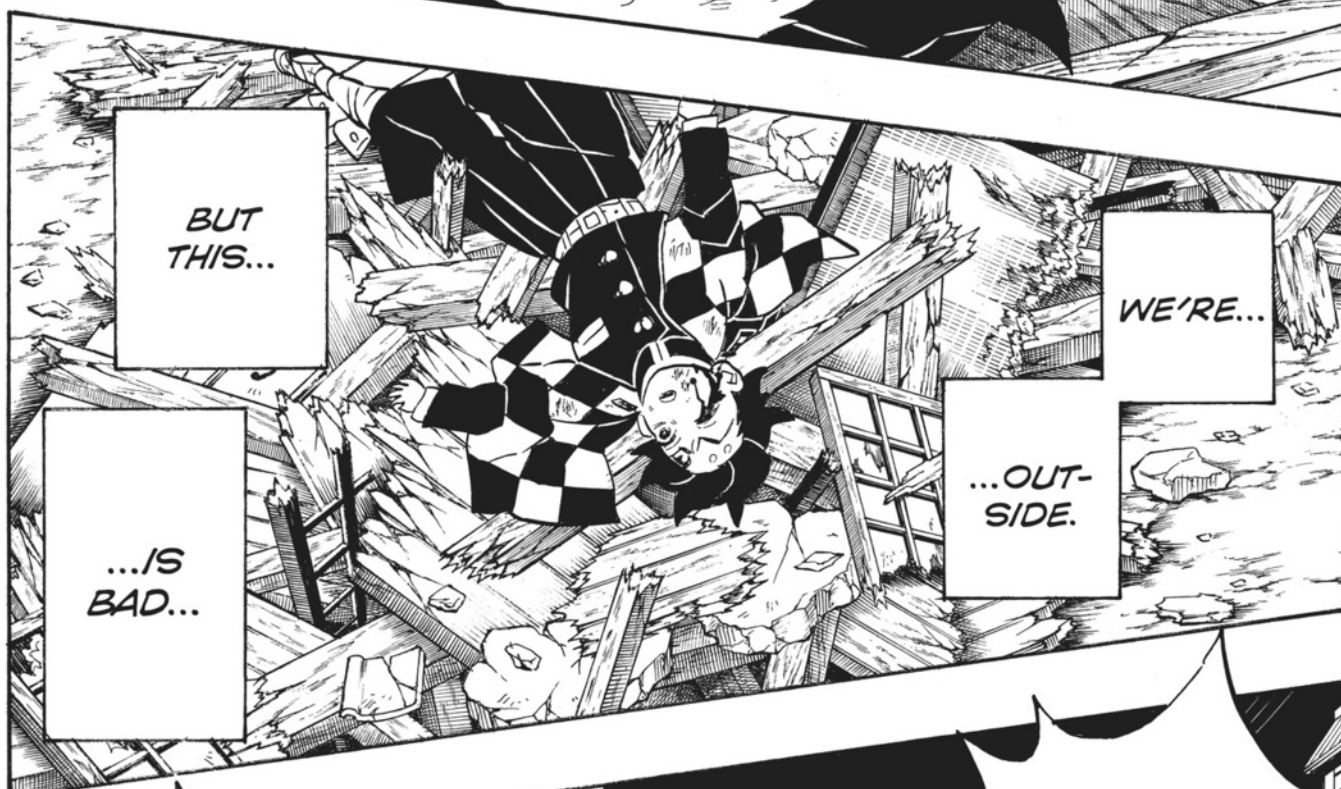
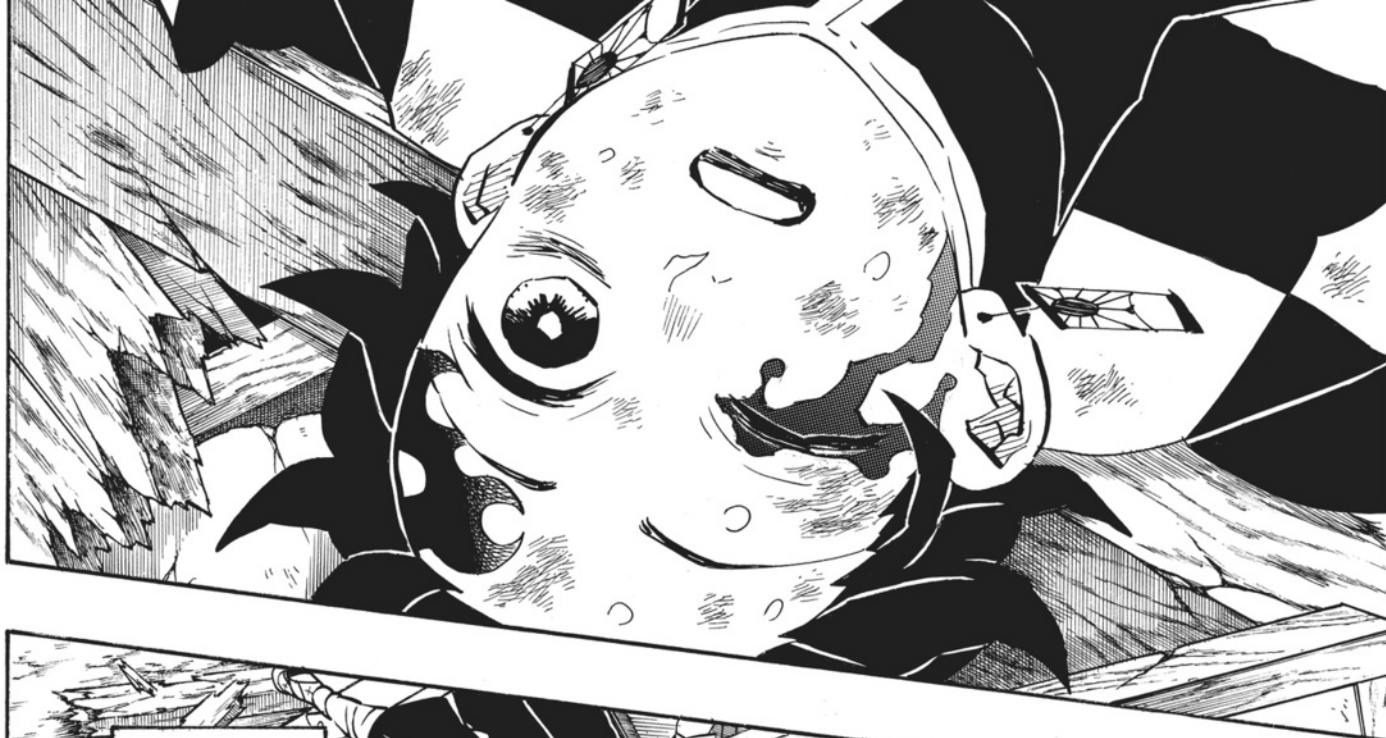


*Takeuchi thinks he enraged
Yushiro by speaking to him and
that's why Yushiro crushed
Nakime's head.*





**CHAPTER 184: LEAVING
THE BATTLEFRONT**

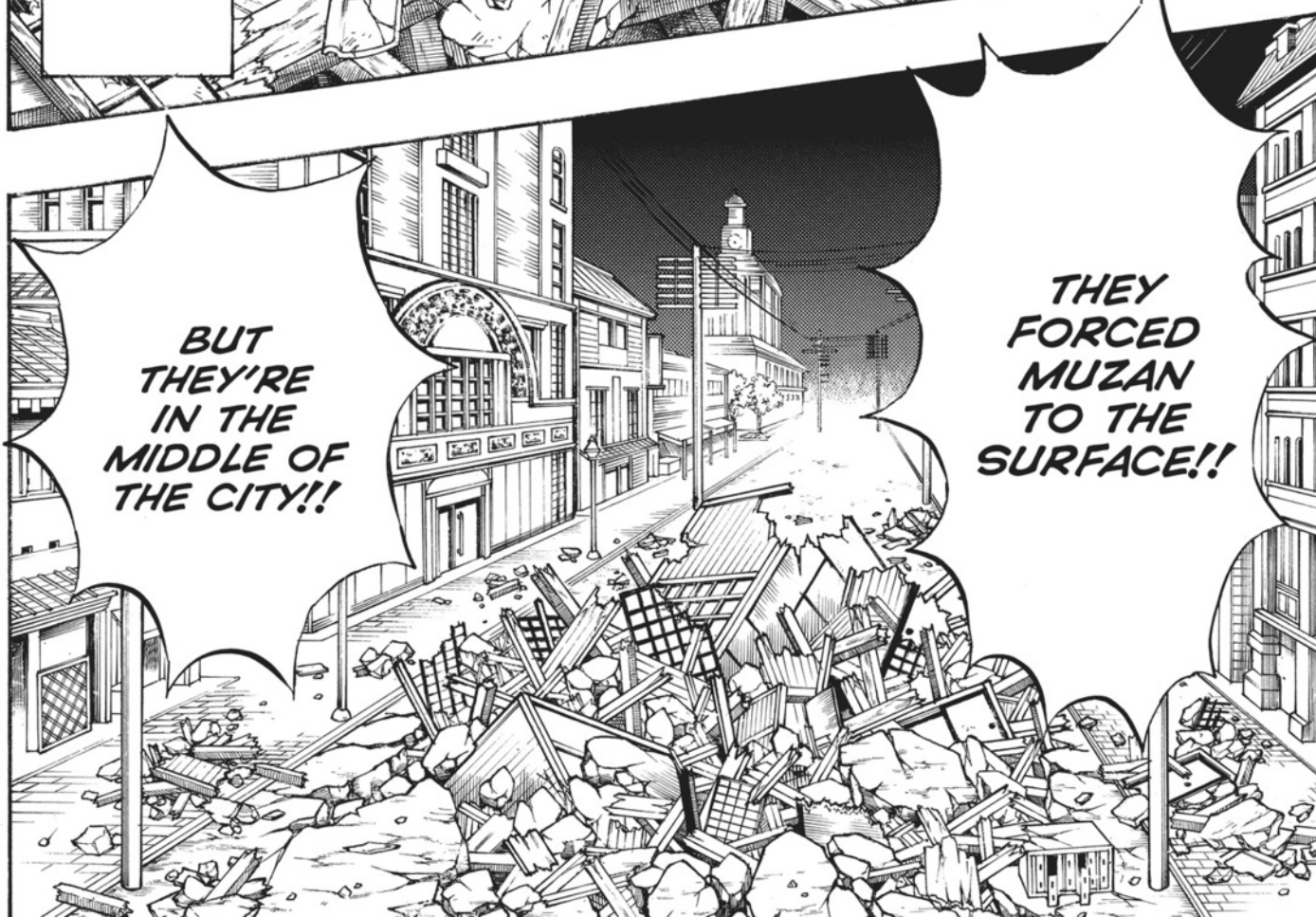


BUT
THIS...

WE'RE...

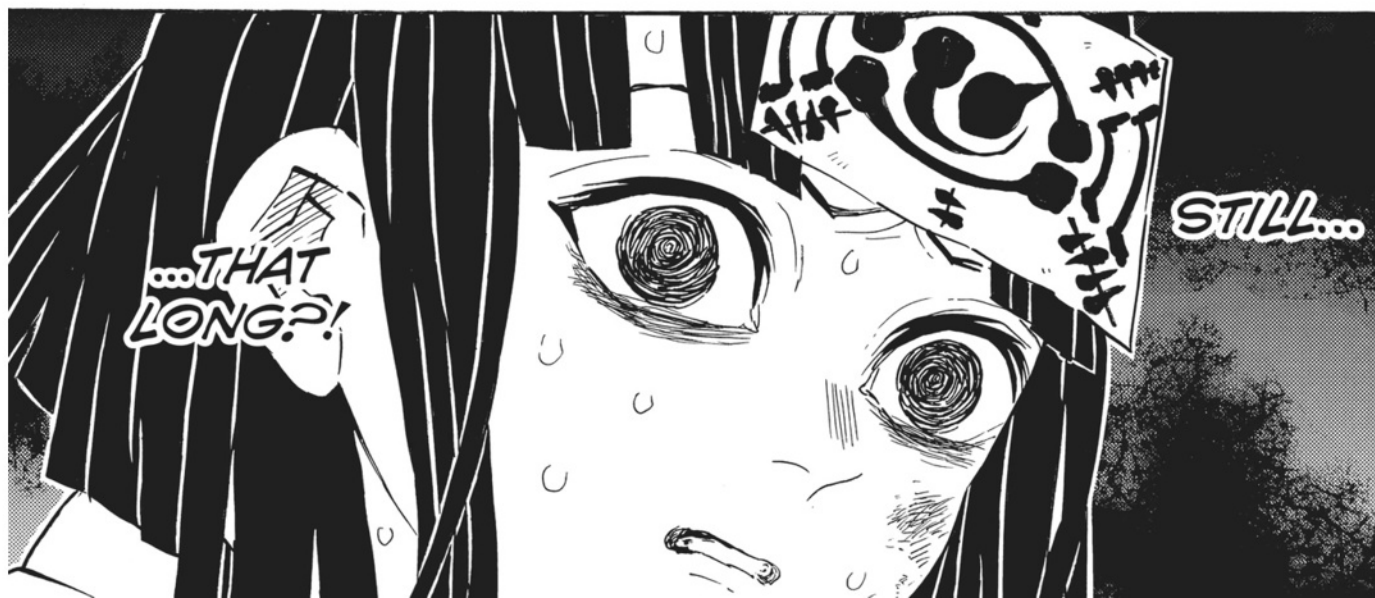
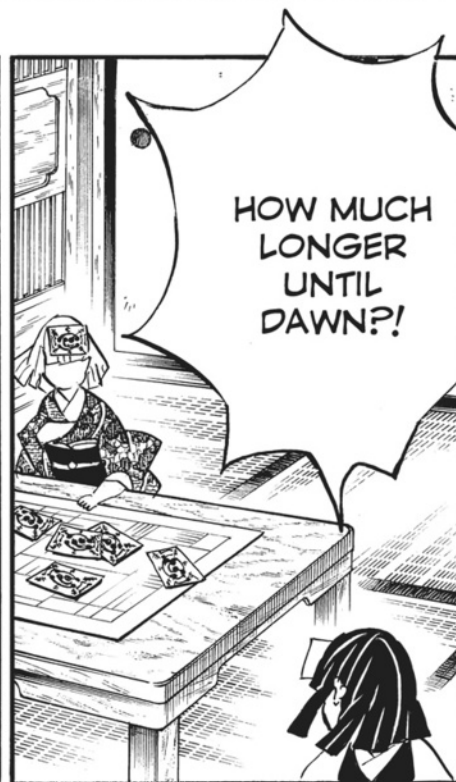
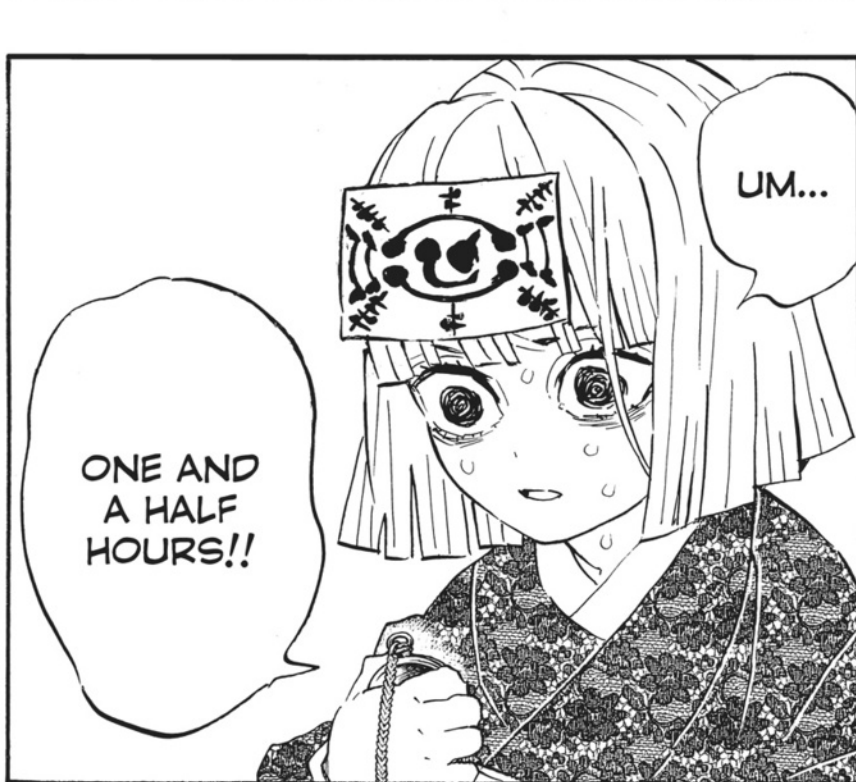
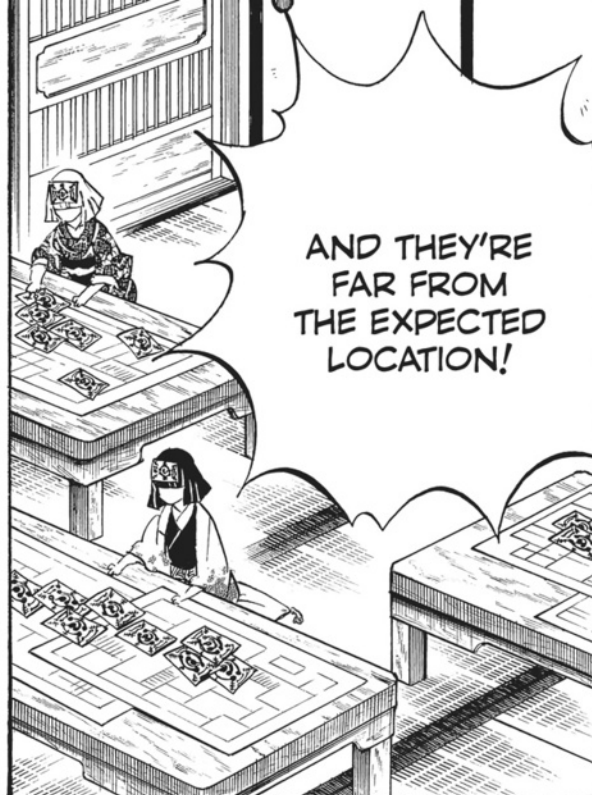
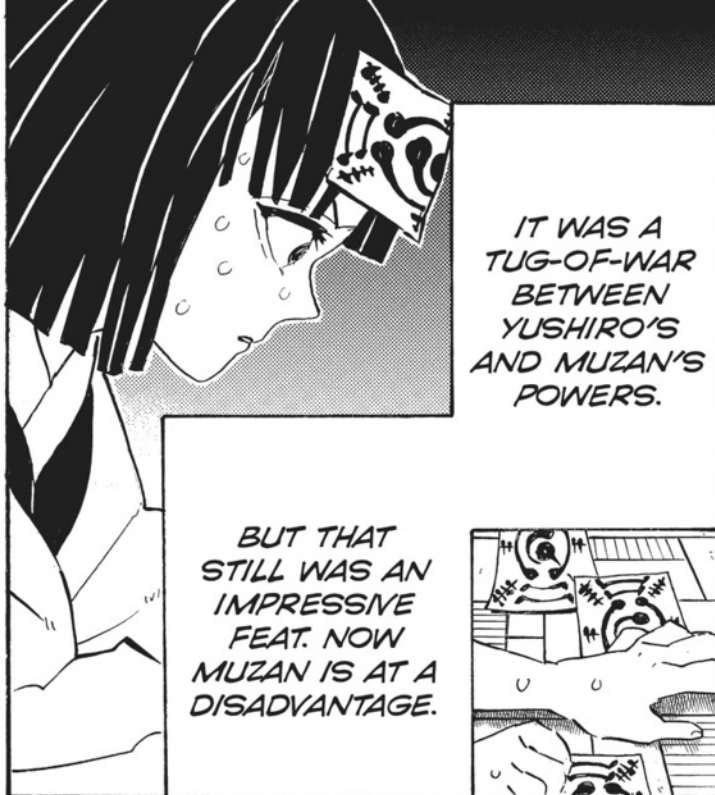
...IS
BAD...

...OUT-
SIDE.



BUT
THEY'RE
IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THE CITY!!

THEY
FORCED
MUZAN
TO THE
SURFACE!!





... IN ONE
AND A HALF
HOURS!!

THE
SUN WILL
RISE...

KAAAW!



WE STILL
HAVE A
LONG TIME
TO GO!!

AND
WHERE IS
EVERY-
ONE?!

!!

THAT'S
A LONG
TIME...



THEY'RE
ALL
RIGHT.

KUNK

AND
GIYU!!

Yoww!!

KANROJI...

IGURO...



USE YOUR
NOSE TO
SNIFF HIM
OUT!

BUT
WHERE'S
MUZAN?!





...UNTIL
SUNRISE.

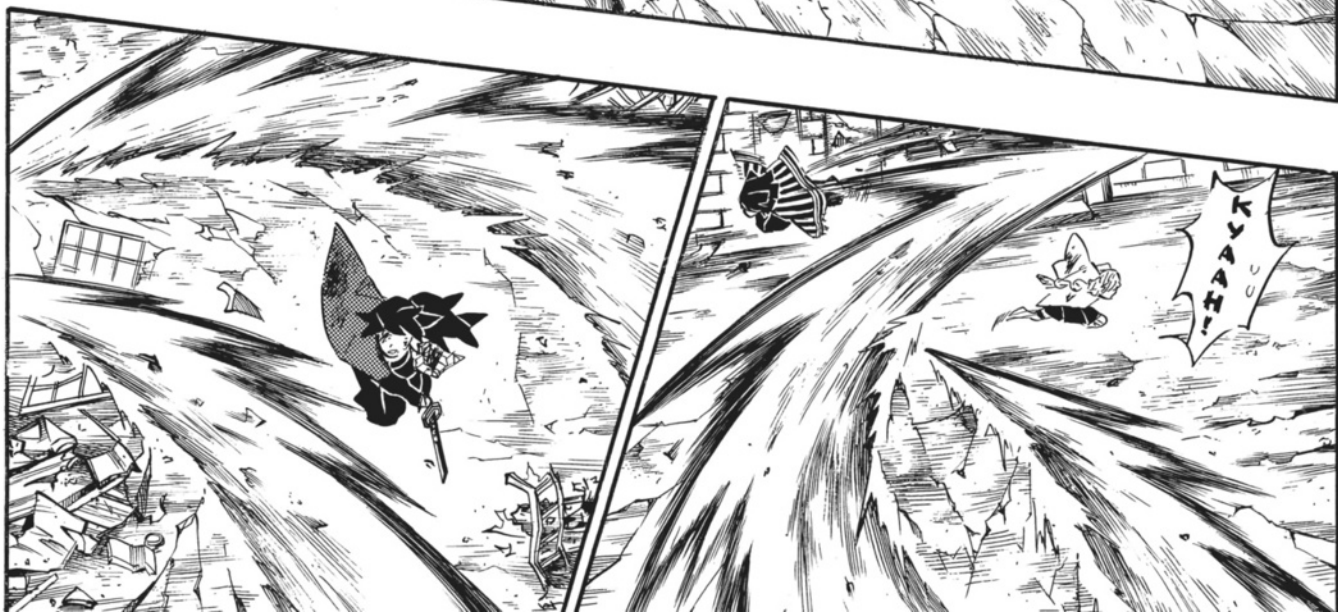
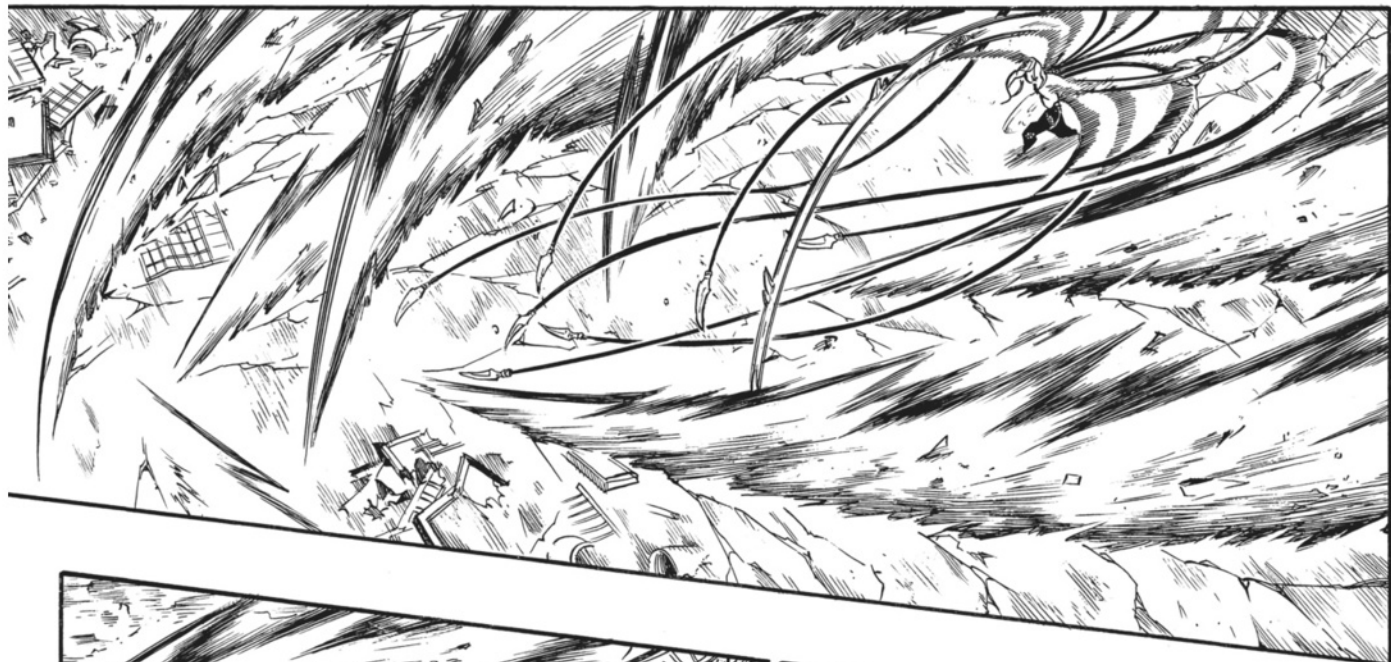
OH...

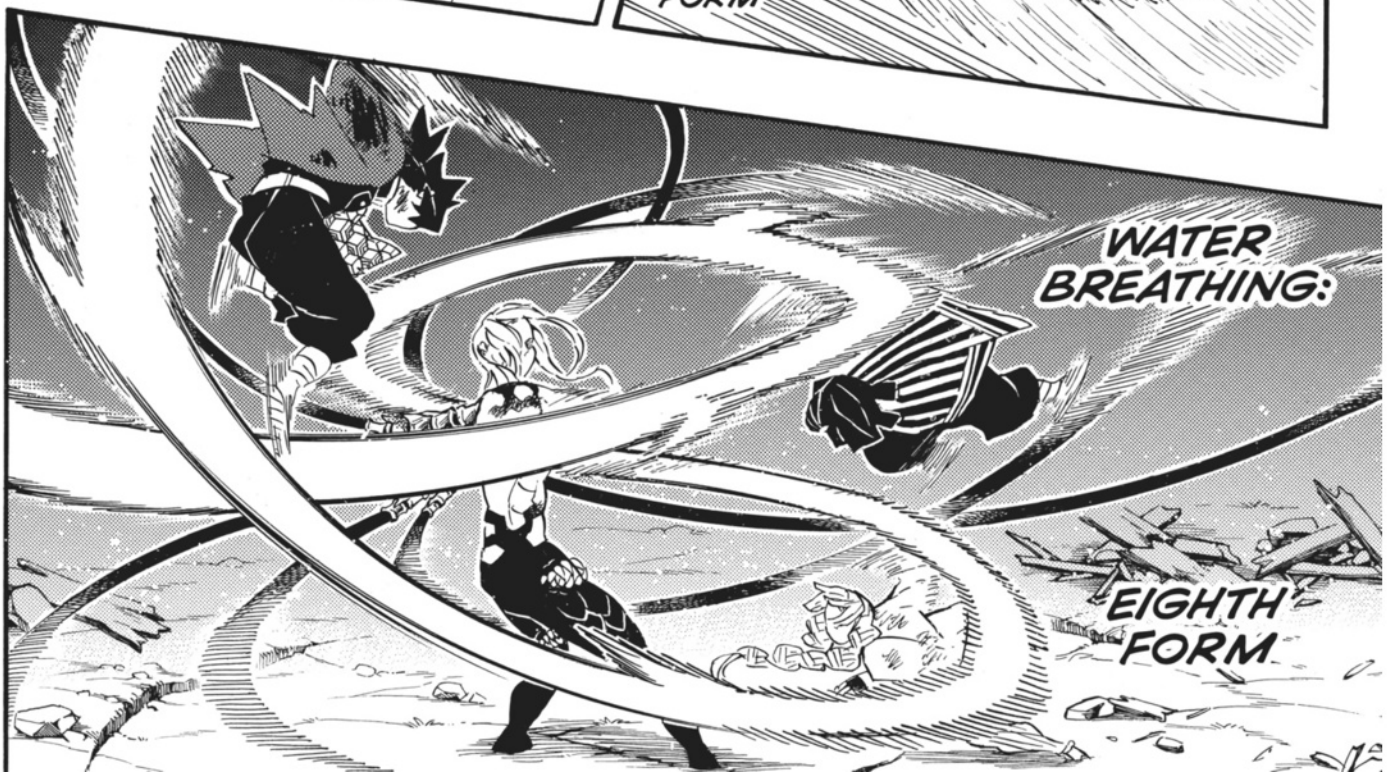
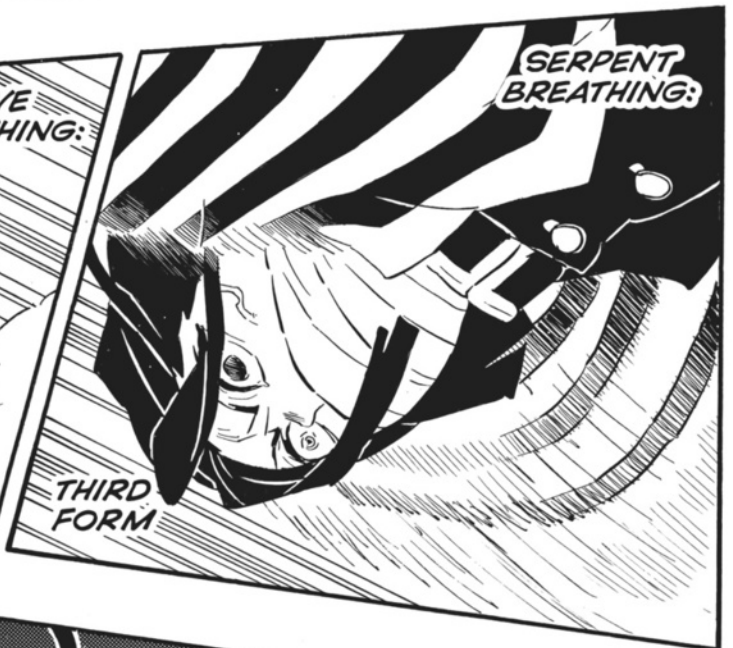
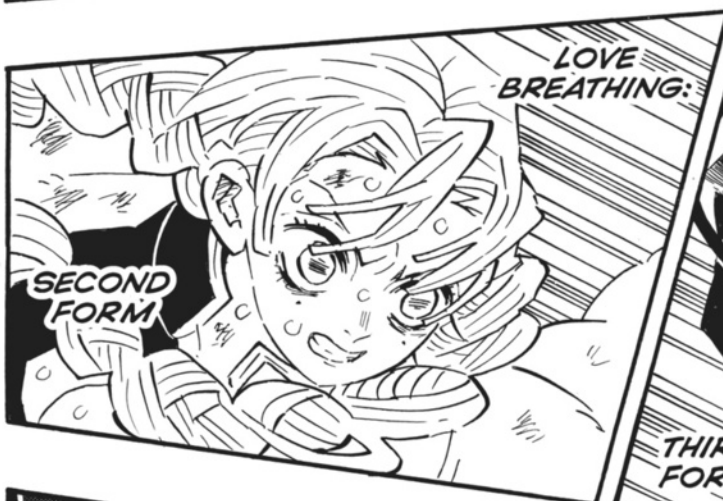
I SUPPOSE
YOU INTEND
TO HOLD ME
HERE...



IF YOU
THINK YOU
CAN...

...THEN GO
AHEAD
AND TRY!!







BLADES PIERCE
HIS FLESH!!

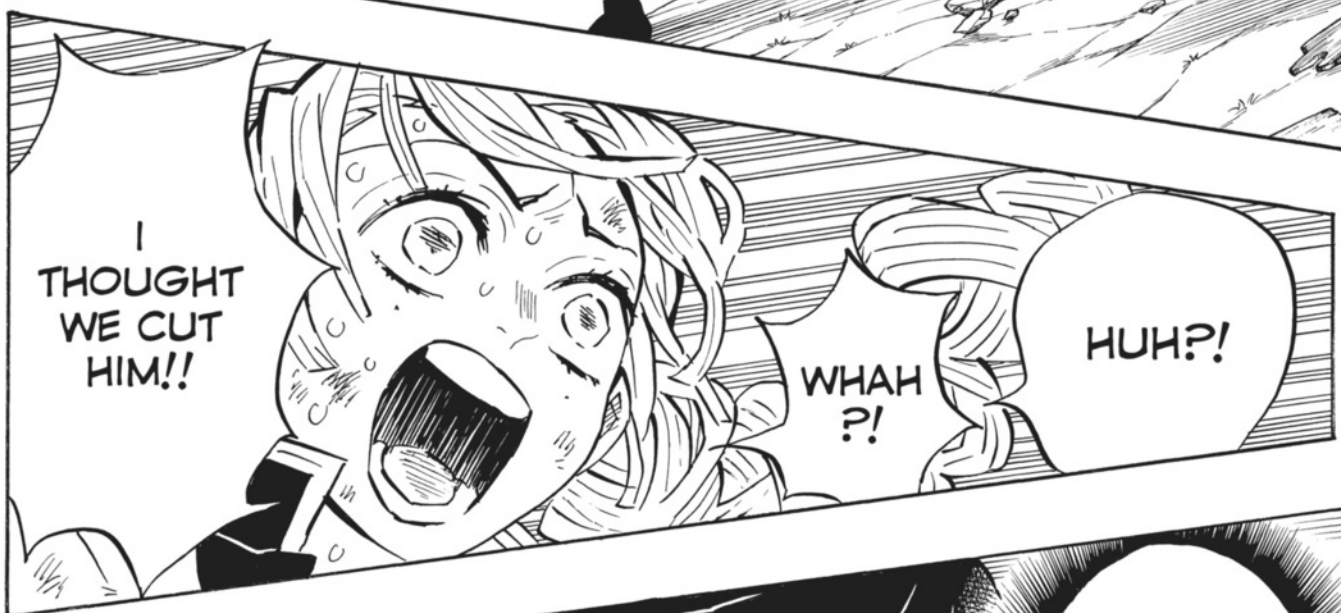


...AND
WEAKEN
HIM EVEN
A LITTLE...

CUTTING
THROUGH
HIS NECK
WON'T KILL
HIM...

...BUT
ATTACKS
DO HAVE AN
EFFECT. IF
WE BREAK
UP HIS
BODY...





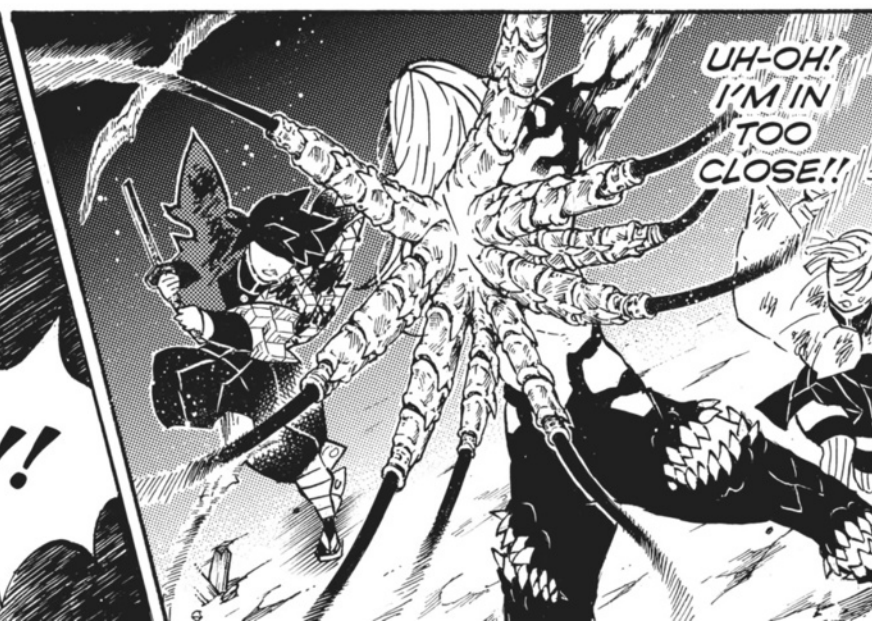


...REGENERATES
AS FAST AS WE
CAN CUT HIM!!



HE WON'T
DIE EVEN
IF WE
DECAPITATE
HIM...

HE REGEN-
ERATES SO
QUICKLY
THAT IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO SEVER
HIS HEAD!



UH-OH!
I'M IN
TOO
CLOSE!!





FORM A
WALL OF
BODIES TO
PROTECT
THE
HASHIRA!



DEFEND ANY
SWORDSMAN
WITH A
CHANCE OF
HARMING
MUZAN!!



CHARGE
!!

GET IN
FRONT!!





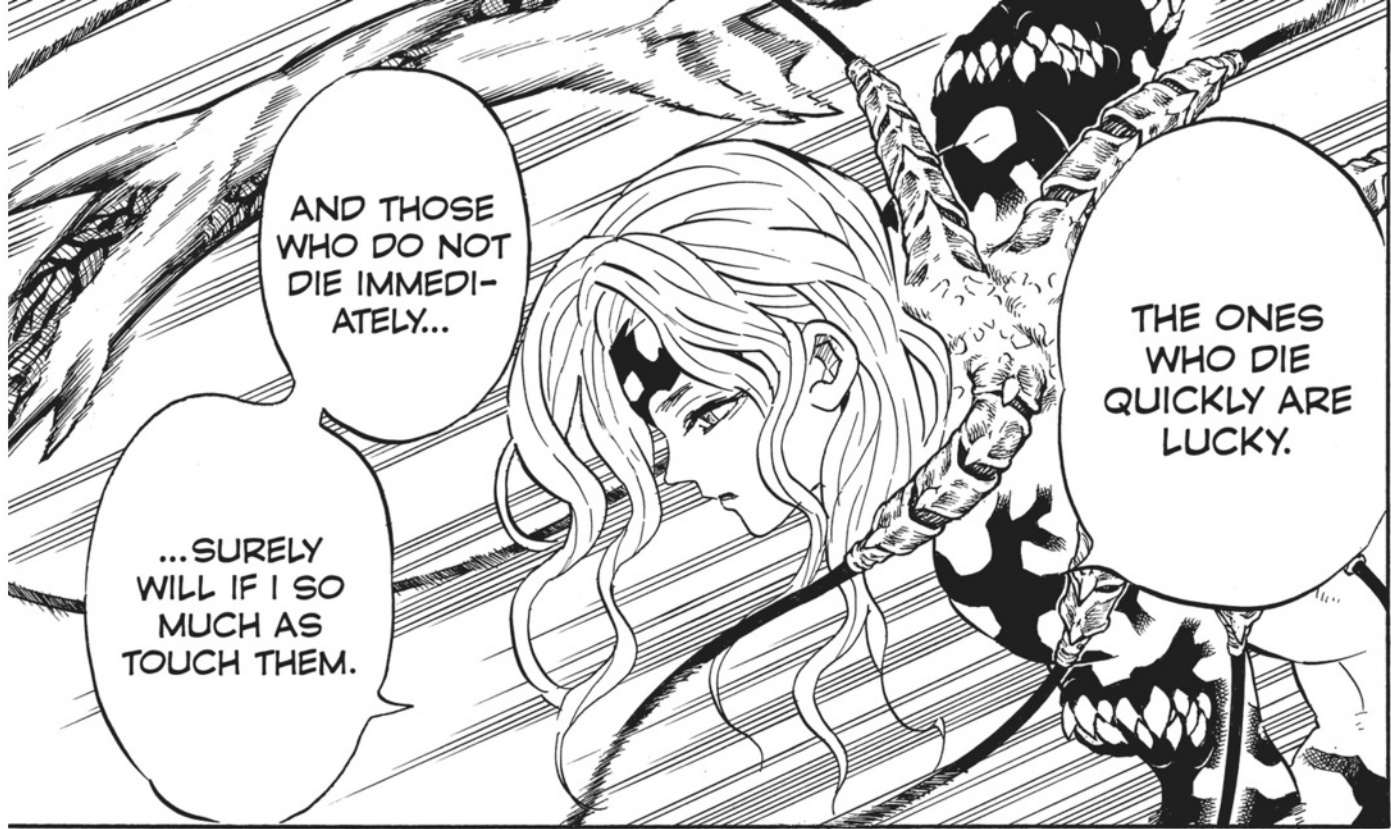
FOLLOW
RIGHT
BEHIND
THEM!!



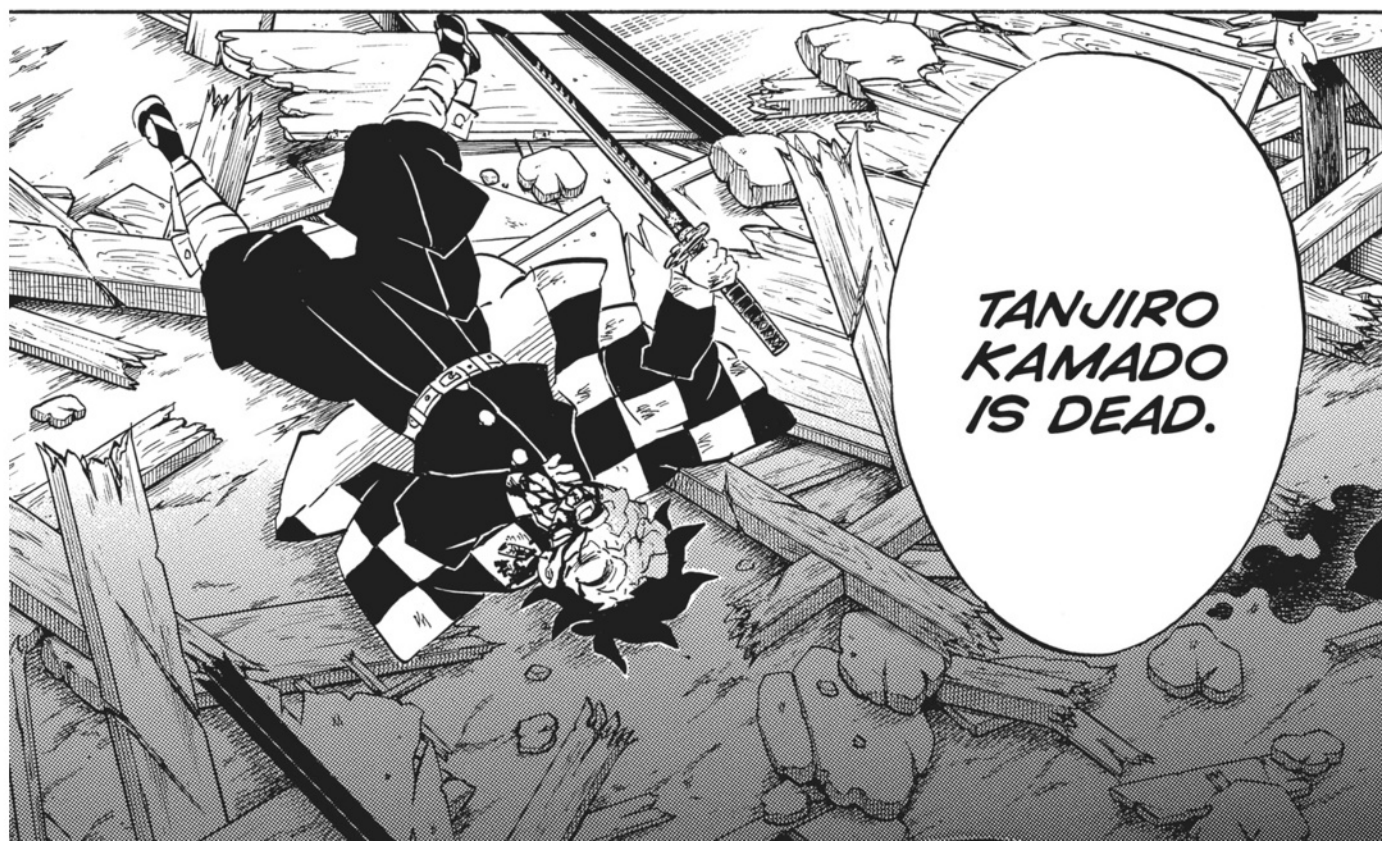
HNNN
...

NNN-
GGGHH!









During the final battle, the crows are receiving orders in writing. Kuina and Kanata jot down in shorthand what Master Ubuyashiki says and show it to the crows. Shorthand is a kind of simple code. It's interesting, so watch a video about it sometime when you have a moment. It's fun!

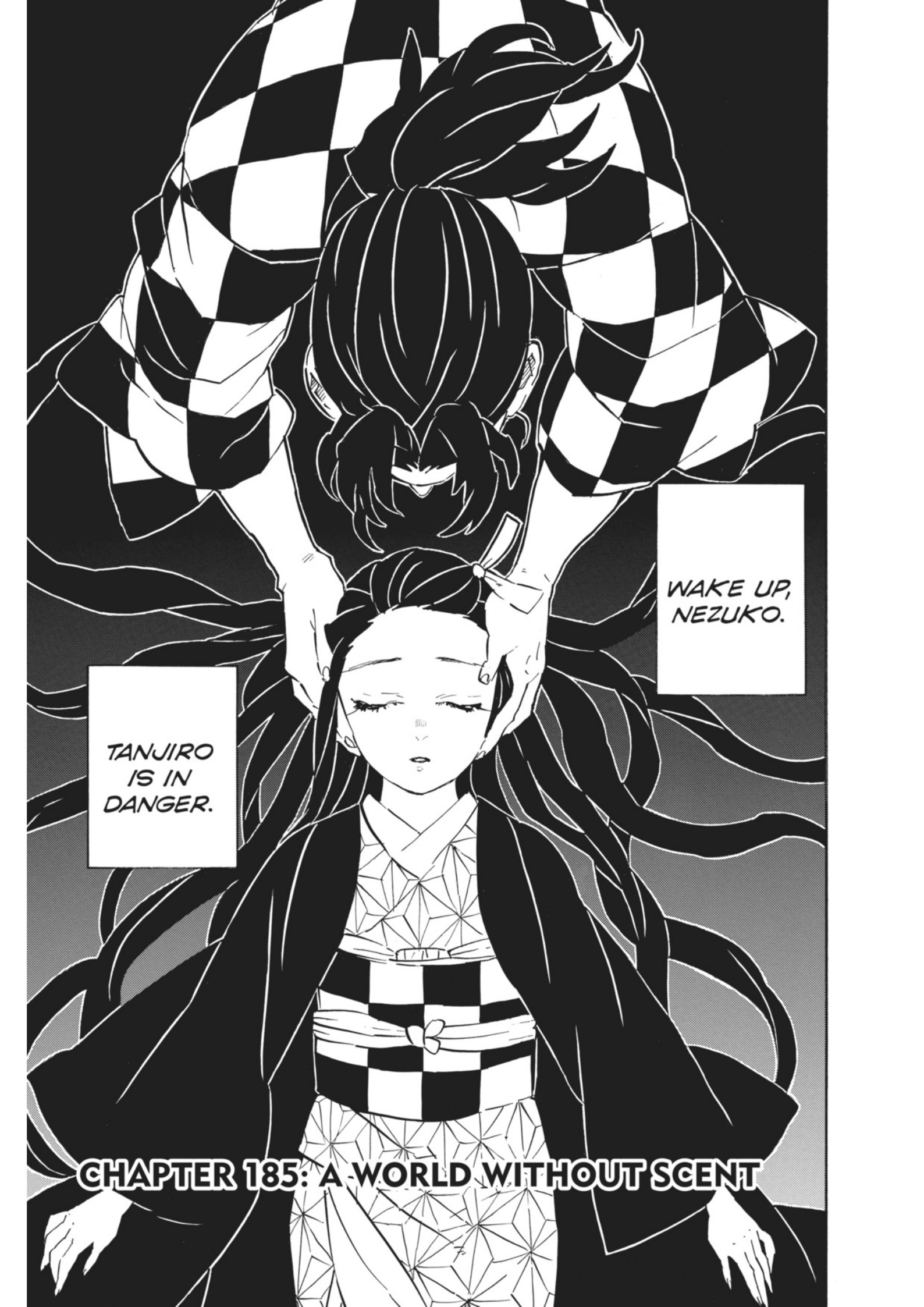
Crows that can talk and read!
Amazing!



A crow
puffed up
with pride.



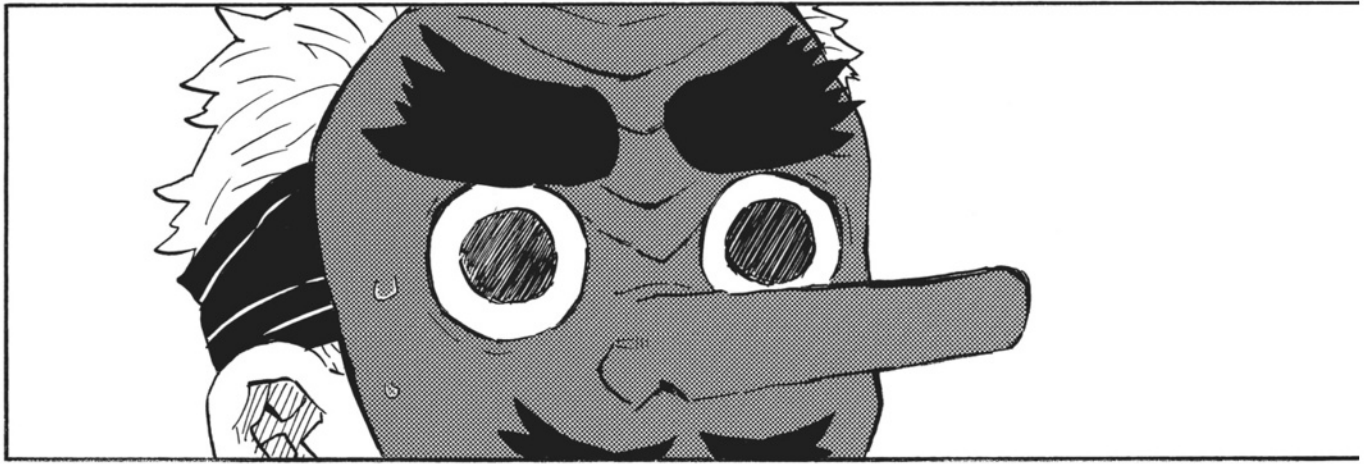
It's like
this. Cool,
huh?

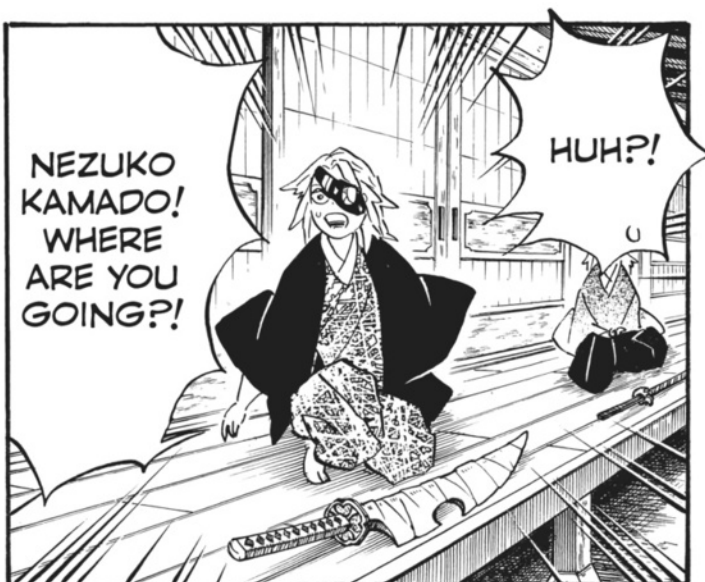
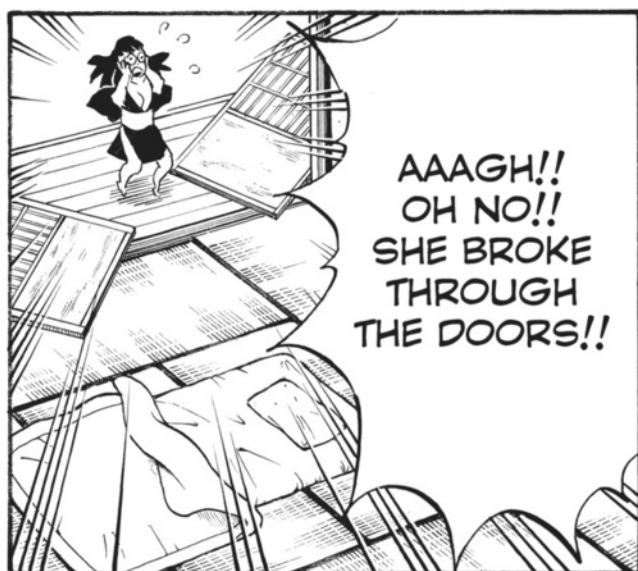


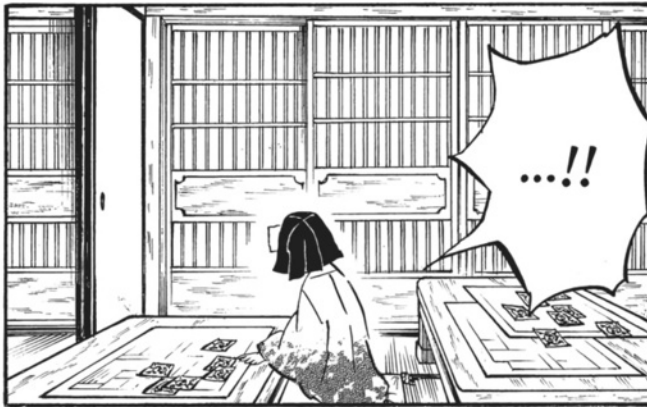
TANJIRO
IS IN
DANGER.

WAKE UP,
NEZUKO.

CHAPTER 185: A WORLD WITHOUT SCENT







...!!



MASTER!!
THE DEMON
GIRL RAN
AWAY!

WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

WHAT
HAP-
PENED?



DID THE
MEDICINE
WORK
AND
MAKE
HER
HUMAN
AGAIN?

NO...
SAKONJI
WOULD
HAVE
BEEN
ABLE TO
STOP
HER.

NO. THAT
CAN'T
BE IT.

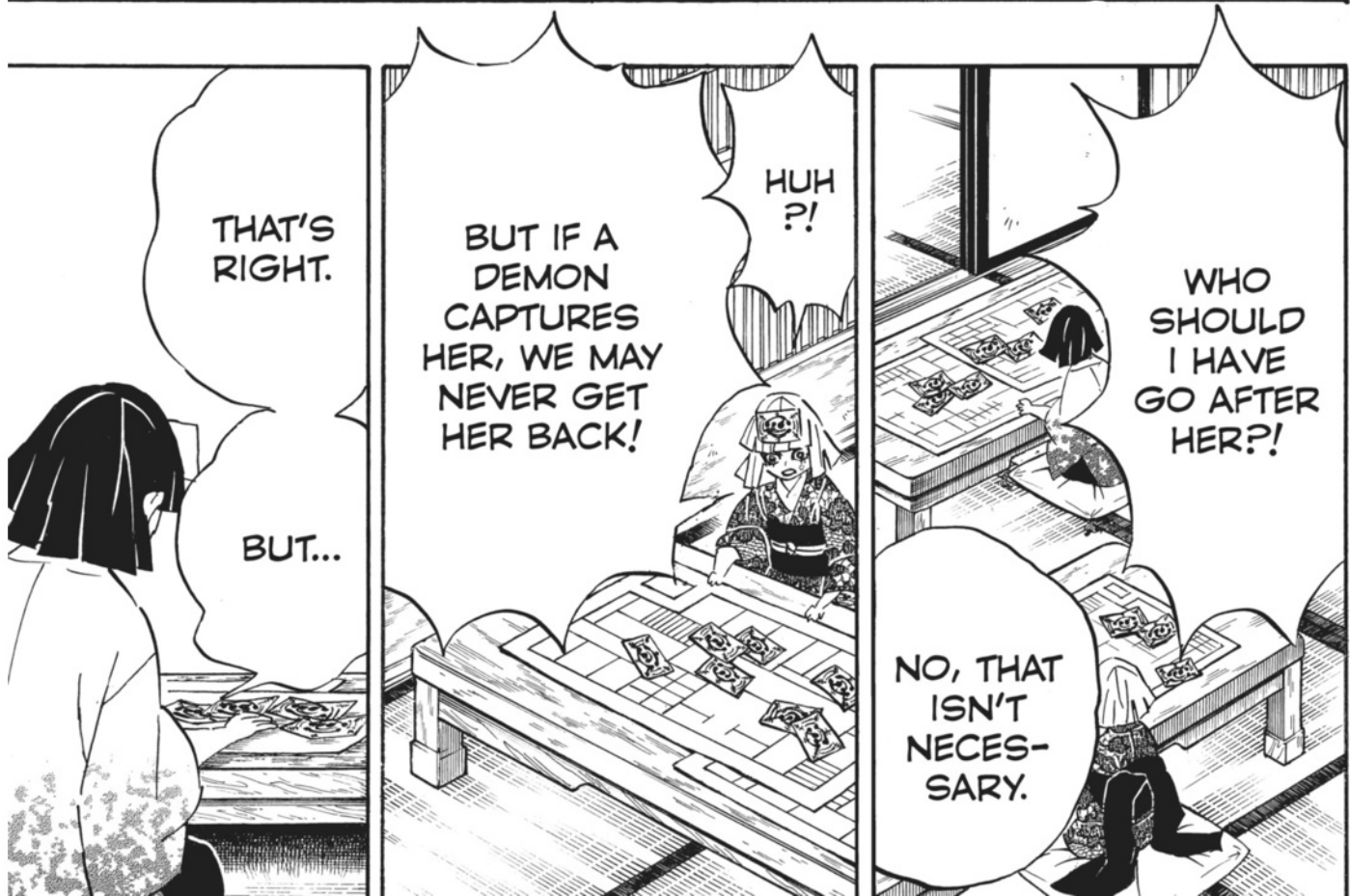
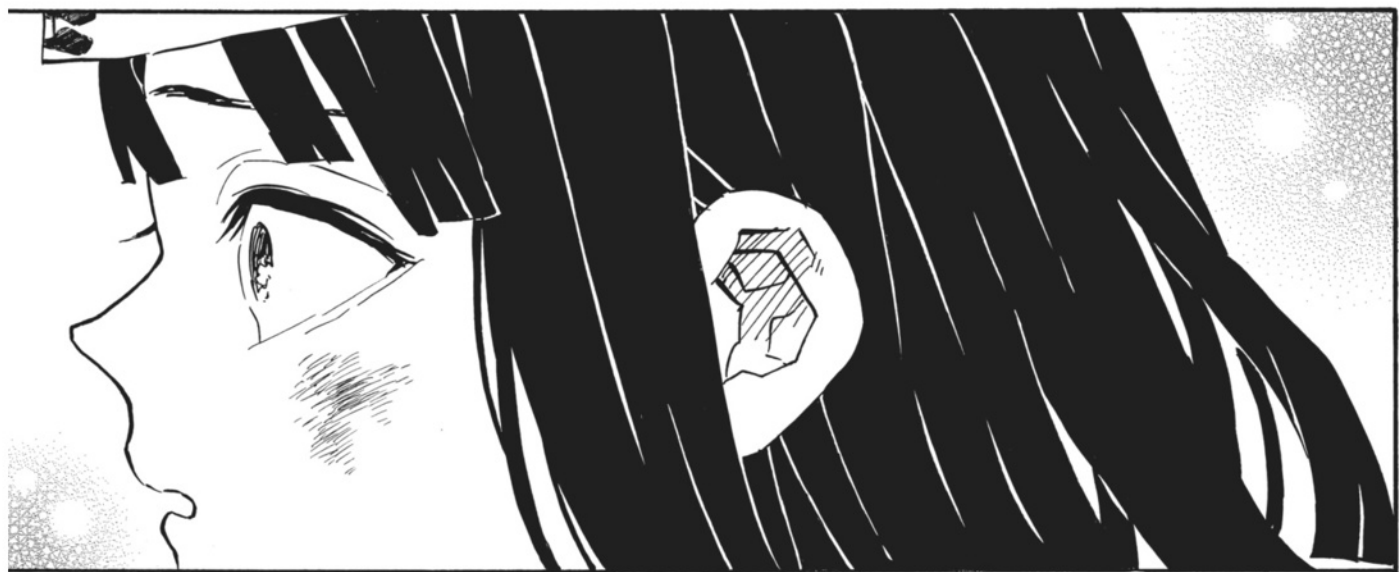
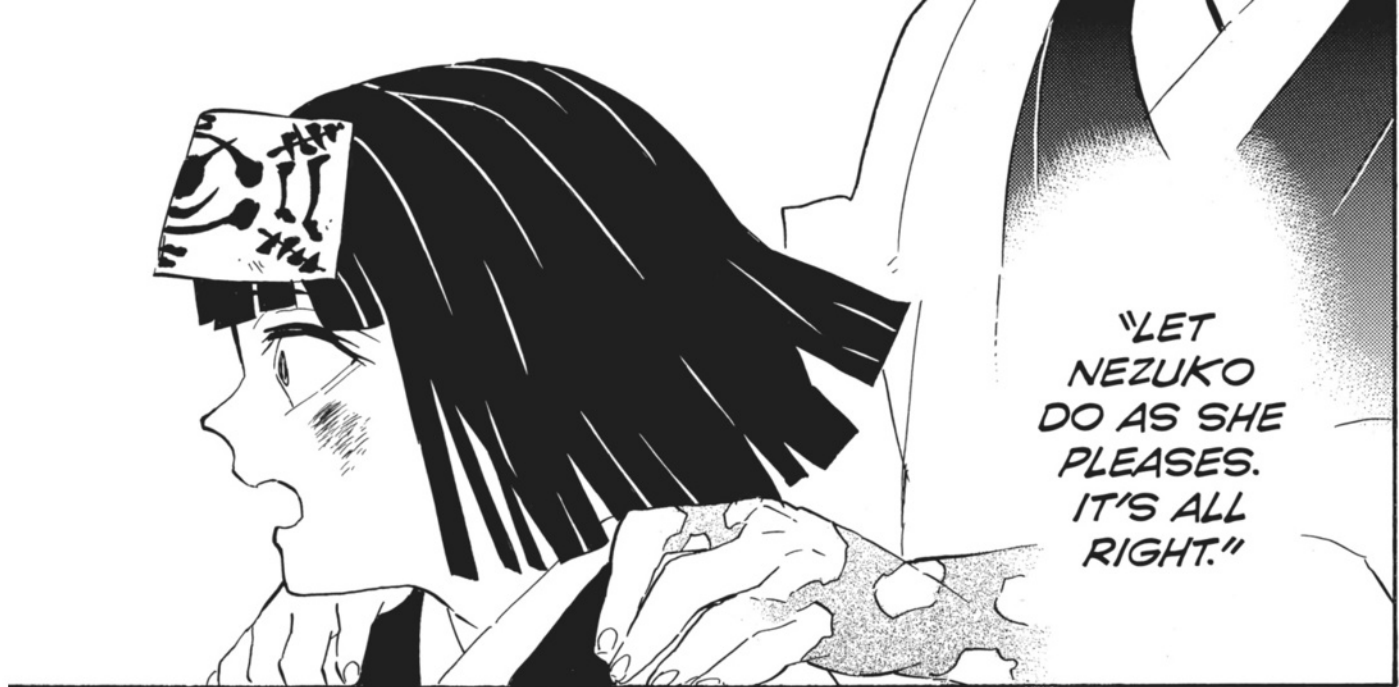
IS MUZAN
CONTROL-
LING HER?

I DON'T
KNOW.



GO
AFTER
HER,
AND—

WE
MUST
GO
AFTER
HER!!

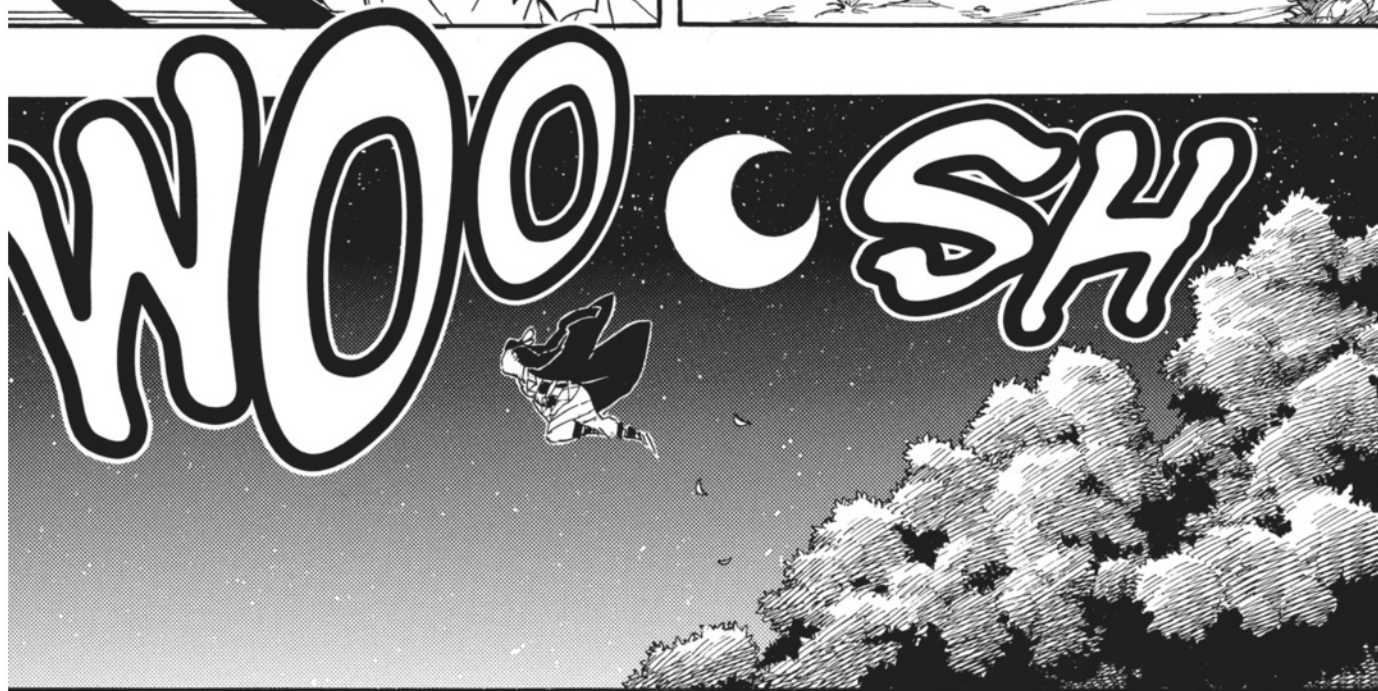




FATHER SAID
TO LET HER
DO WHAT SHE
WANTS.



SHE'S TOO
FAST!! I
CAN'T KEEP
UP ANY
LONGER!!











...BUT HE
STILL HIT
ME!

EVERYONE
DEFENDED
ME...



YOU CAN STILL
MOVE? YOU
HASHIRA... YOU
MARKED ONES
ARE HARDER
TO KILL.



KANROJI!!



WHAM

UNGH!



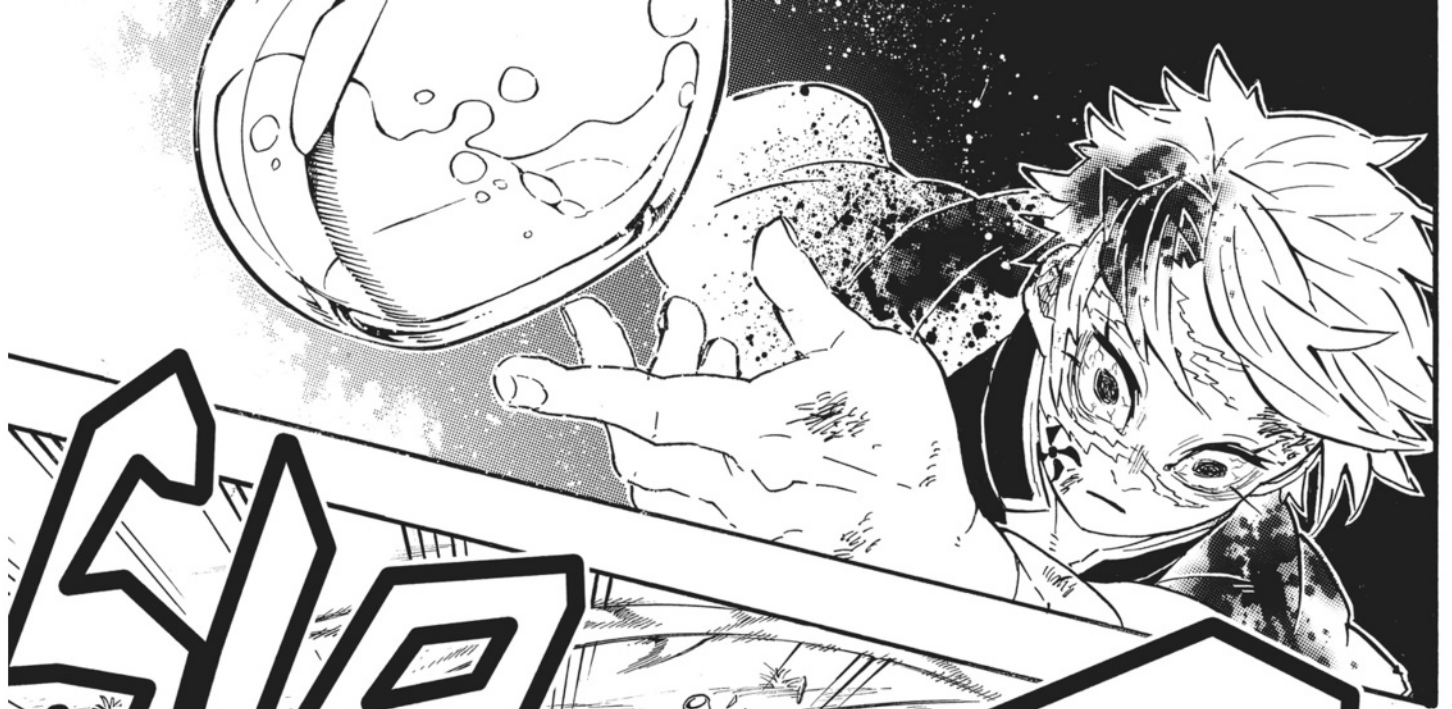
PLEASE!

SAVE
YOURSELF!!











K
S
HAK

YEAH, JUST
WHAT YOU
DESERVE!

GRAB

DIRTY
TRICKS,
HUH?!



...YOU
SCUM!

I'M GONNA
KILL YOU...



MURATAAA!!



MY
FAMILY'S
ENEMY!
I MUST
KILL
HIM!!

THAT
GUY...

...IS
MUZAN!



TANJIRO IS
DOWN!!

TAKE HIM
SOMEPLACE
SAFE AND
TEND TO HIS
WOUNDS!!

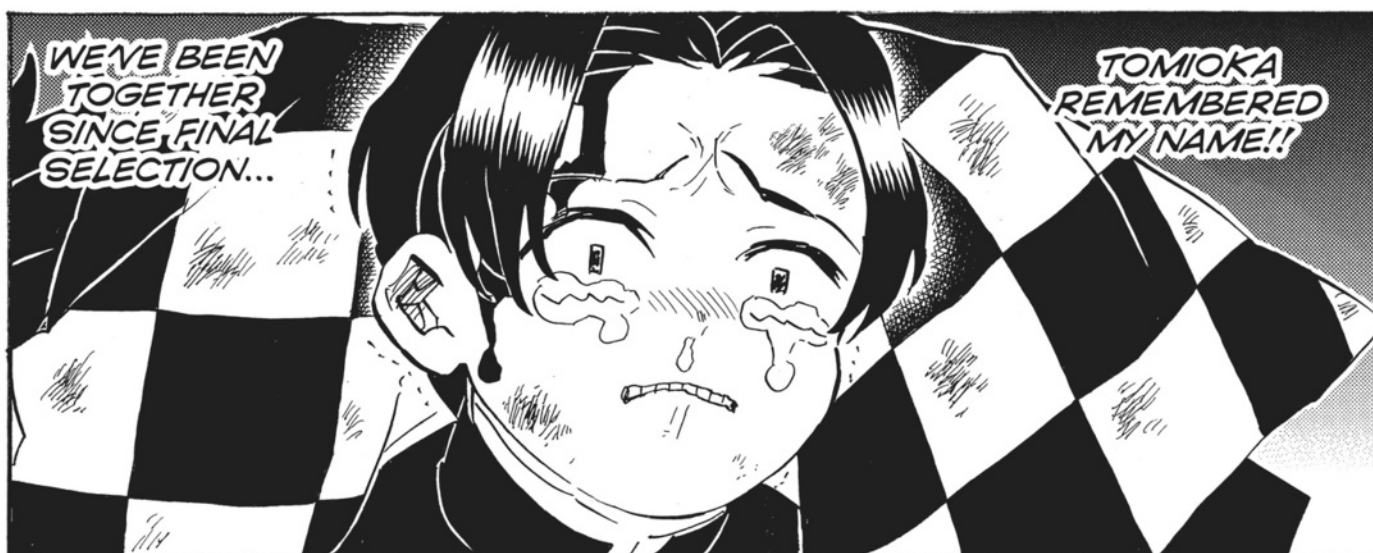


...AND
TREAT
YOUR
WOUNDS.

DON'T
WORRY. I'LL
GET YOU
OUT OF
HERE...



TANJIRO!!
ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?!



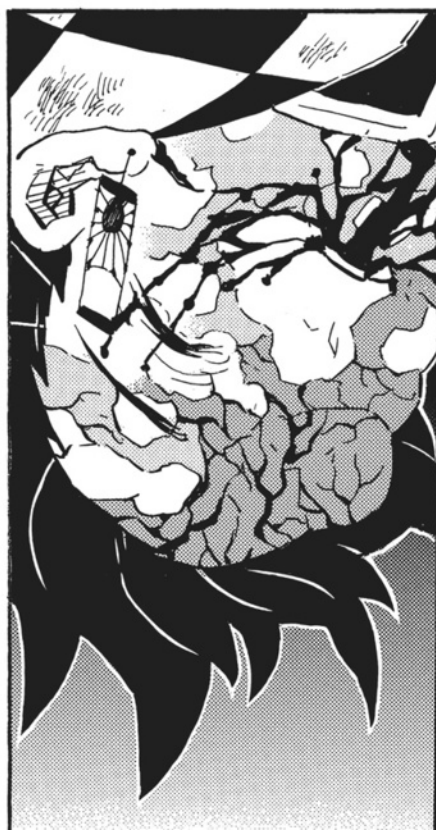
WE'VE BEEN
TOGETHER
SINCE FINAL
SELECTION...

TOMIOKA
REMEMBERED
MY NAME!!



BE...
USEFUL...

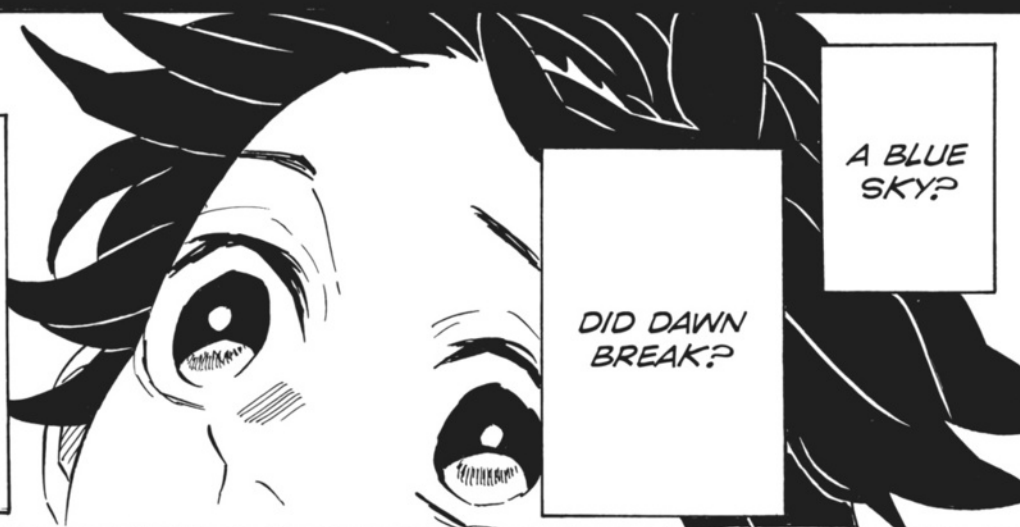
EVERYONE...
FOUGHT
HARD...TO
THE END...



...BUT HE
PULLED FAR
AHEAD OF
ME!!



NO...THAT
CAN'T BE.



DID DAWN
BREAK?

A BLUE
SKY?



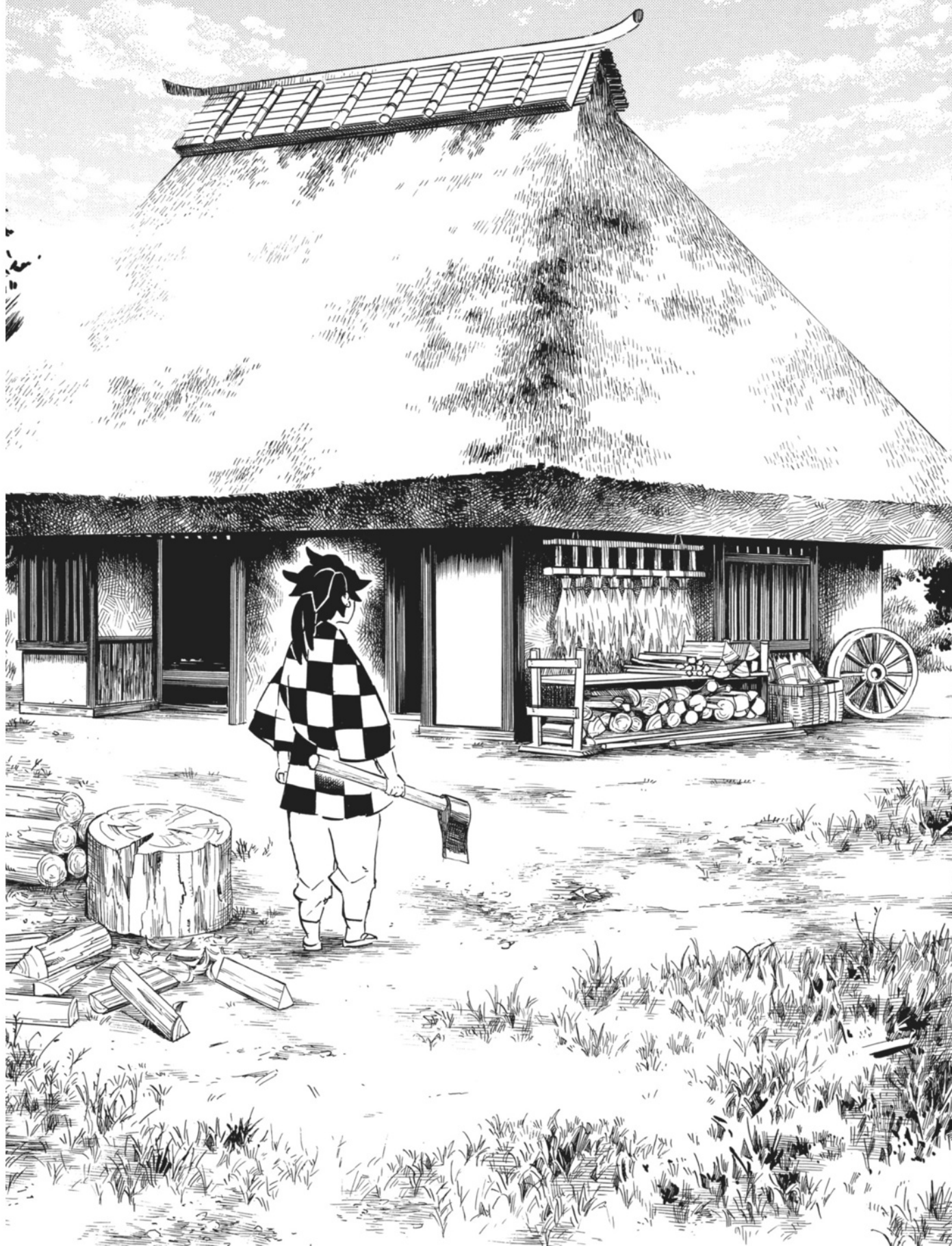
HUH?

I DON'T
SMELL
ANYTHING!

Thank you, Tomioka!
When this fight is
over, let's go for a
bite to eat! I'm so
happy you remembered
my name!



CHAPTER 186: ANCIENT MEMORIES



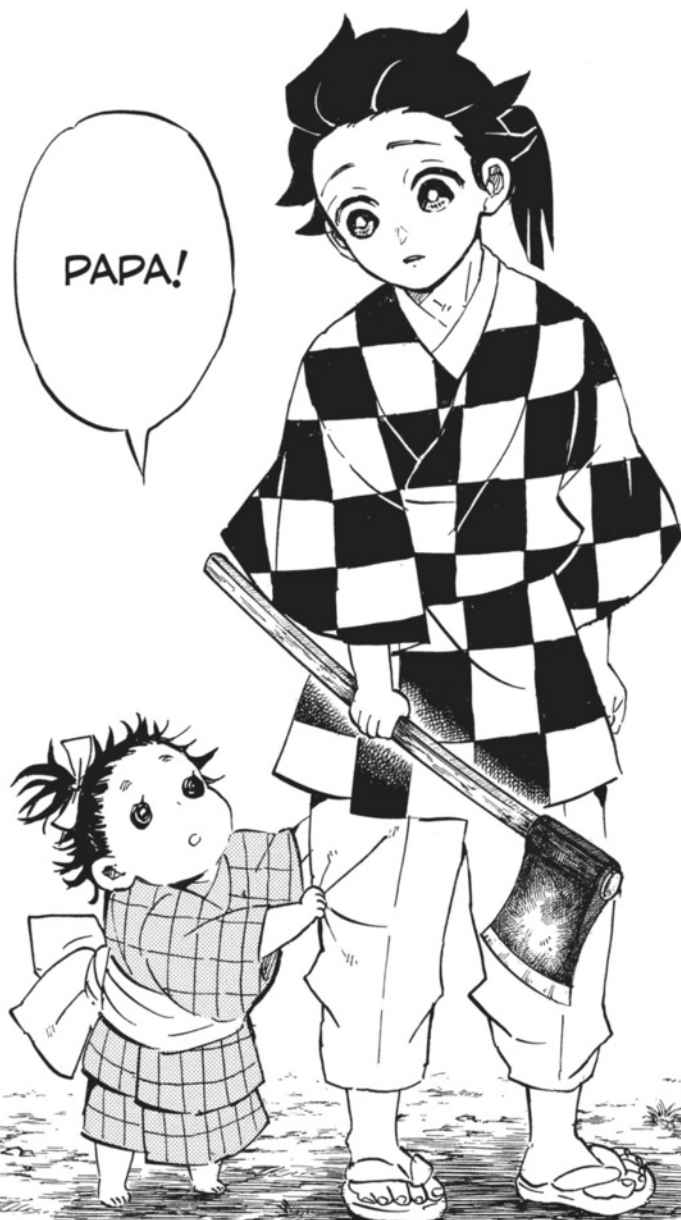
NO... IT
LOOKS
SIMILAR, BUT
IT'S A LITTLE
DIFFERENT.
IT'S NOT
MINE.

IS
THIS...

...MY
HOUSE?



PAPA!

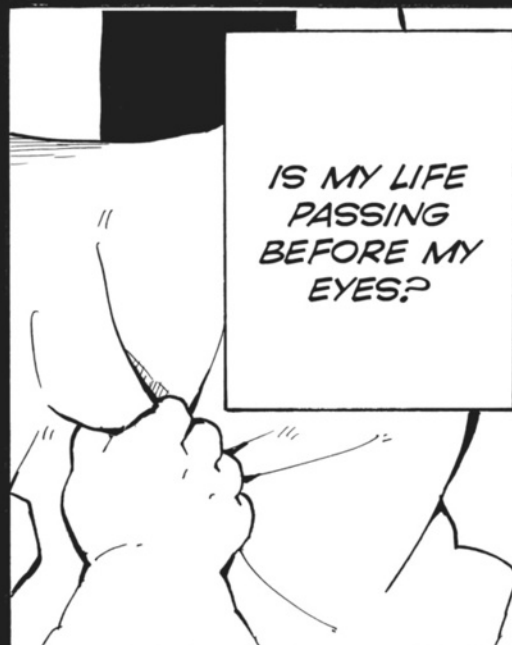


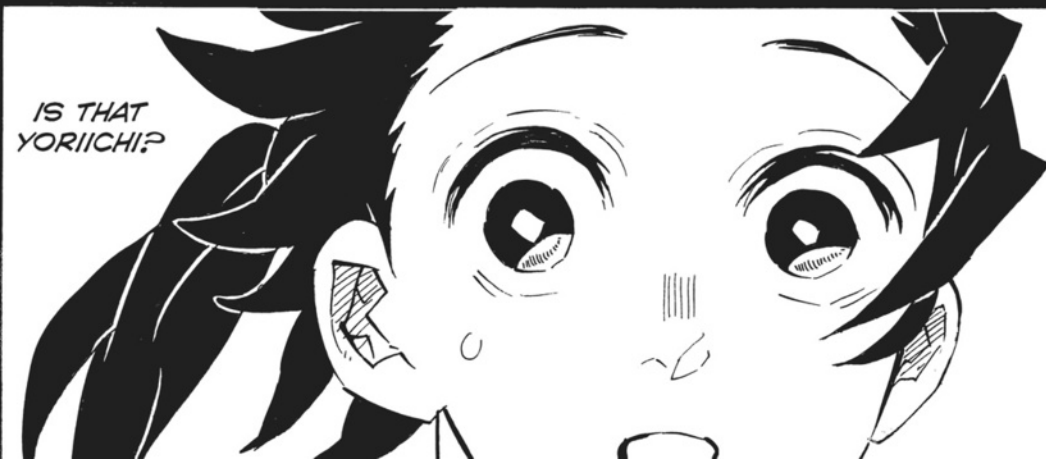
CHOPPING
WOOD?

WHAT AM
I DOING?



IS MY LIFE
PASSING
BEFORE MY
EYES?

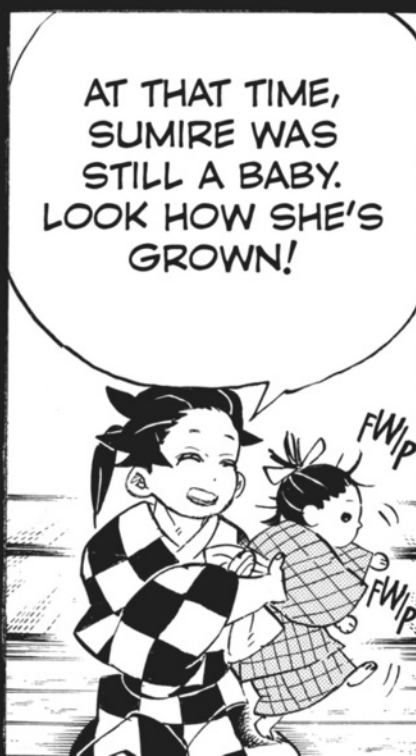




THE
SWORDSMAN
WHO FIRST
USED
BREATHING
TECHNIQUES.







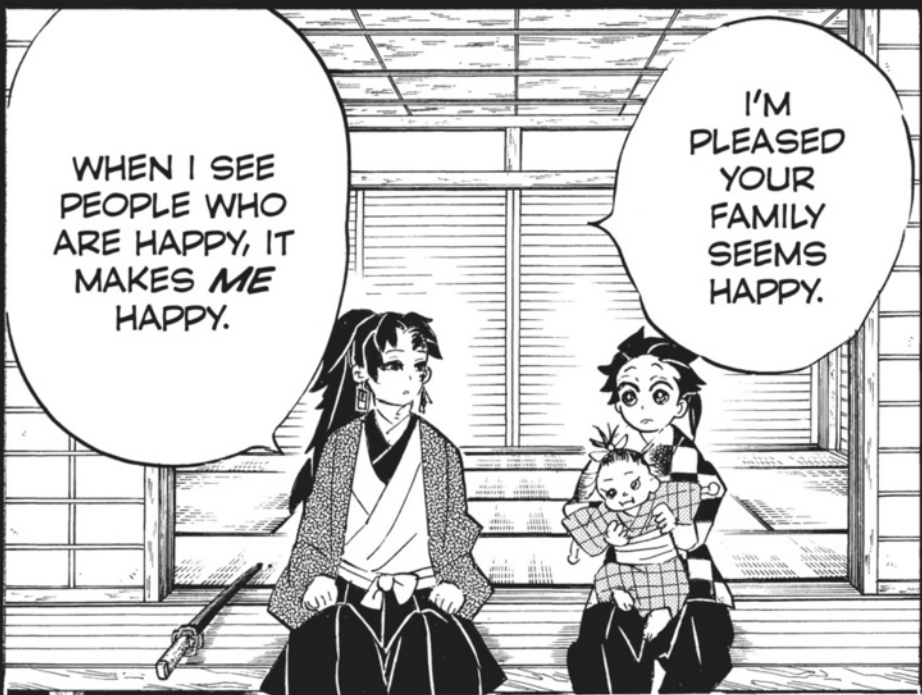


THIS IS A
MEMORY
INHERITED
FROM MY
ANCESTOR...

OH
RIGHT...

...SO I HAVE
NO CONTROL
OVER IT!

OF
COURSE!



WHEN I SEE
PEOPLE WHO
ARE HAPPY, IT
MAKES *ME*
HAPPY.

I'M
PLEASED
YOUR
FAMILY
SEEMS
HAPPY.



IT IS A
BLESSING
SIMPLY TO BE
BORN INTO IT.

THE
WORLD...

...HOLDS
MUCH THAT IS
BEAUTIFUL.



EACH DAY, SHE
PRAYED THAT
STRIFE WOULD
DISAPPEAR FROM
THE WORLD.

MY MOTHER
WAS A
WOMAN OF
DEEP FAITH.



I REGRET
THAT SHE
ALSO
WORRIED
ABOUT
ME...

...BECAUSE
I NEVER
SPOKE.



SHE EVEN
MADE
EARRINGS
AS CHARMS
FOR ME.



AND SHE
ASKED THE
SUN DEITY
TO SHINE
WARMLY...

...UPON MY
DEAF EARS.

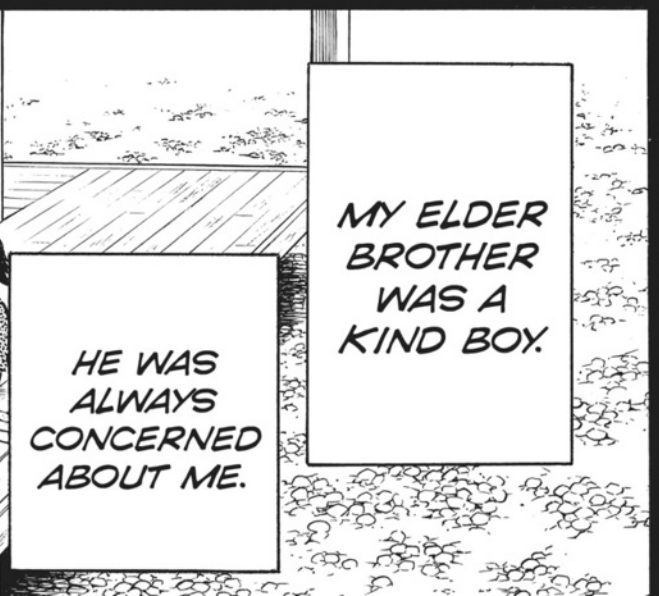


THE DAY AFTER
FATHER HIT HIM
AND ORDERED
HIM NOT TO
PAMPER ME...



HE WAS
ALWAYS
CONCERNED
ABOUT ME.

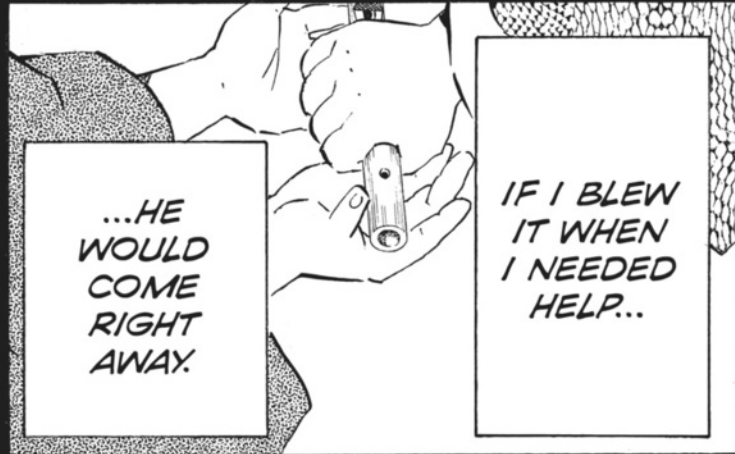
MY ELDER
BROTHER
WAS A
KIND BOY.



HE TOLD ME
NOT TO WORRY
AND SMILED
DESPITE HIS
BRUISED AND
SWOLLEN FACE.



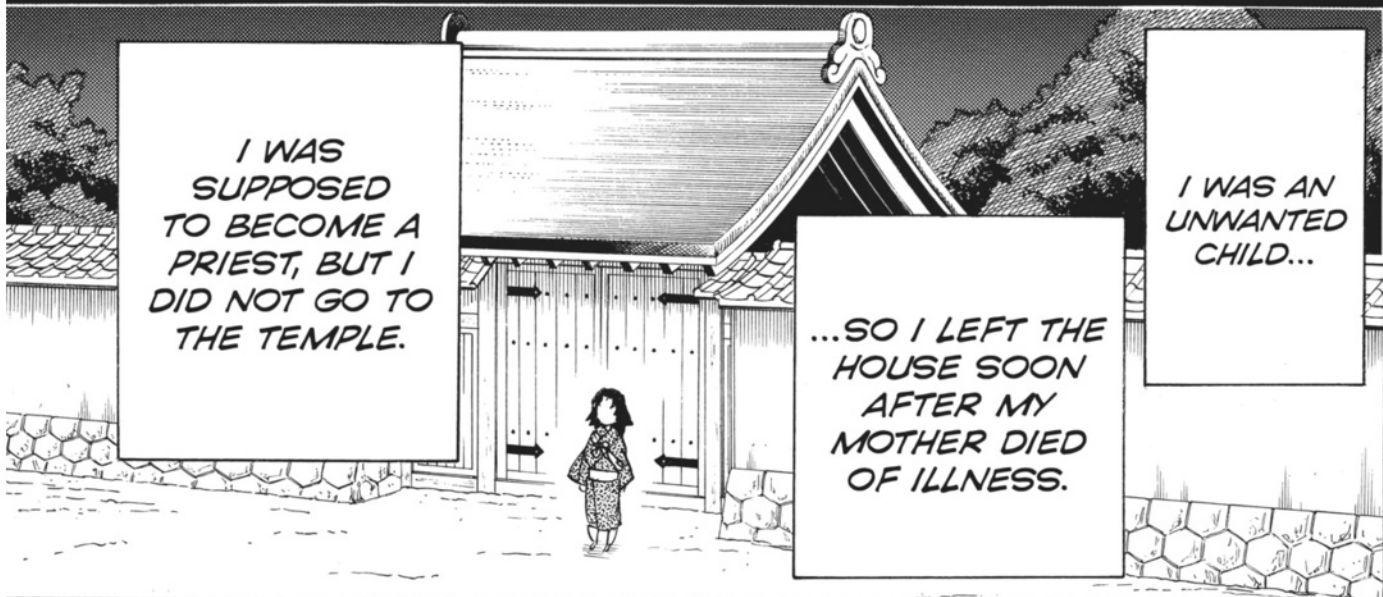
...HE
MADE A
FLUTE AND
BROUGHT
IT TO ME.



...HE
WOULD
COME
RIGHT
AWAY.

IF I BLEW
IT WHEN
I NEEDED
HELP...

I WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BECOME A
PRIEST, BUT I
DID NOT GO TO
THE TEMPLE.



...SO I LEFT THE
HOUSE SOON
AFTER MY
MOTHER DIED
OF ILLNESS.

I WAS AN
UNWANTED
CHILD...

...UNDER
THE INFINITE
EXPANSE
OF THE
BEAUTIFUL
SKY.



INSTEAD,
I WANTED
TO RUN AS
HARD AS I
COULD...

...I DID NOT
STOP FROM
EXHAUSTION.

AND
YET...

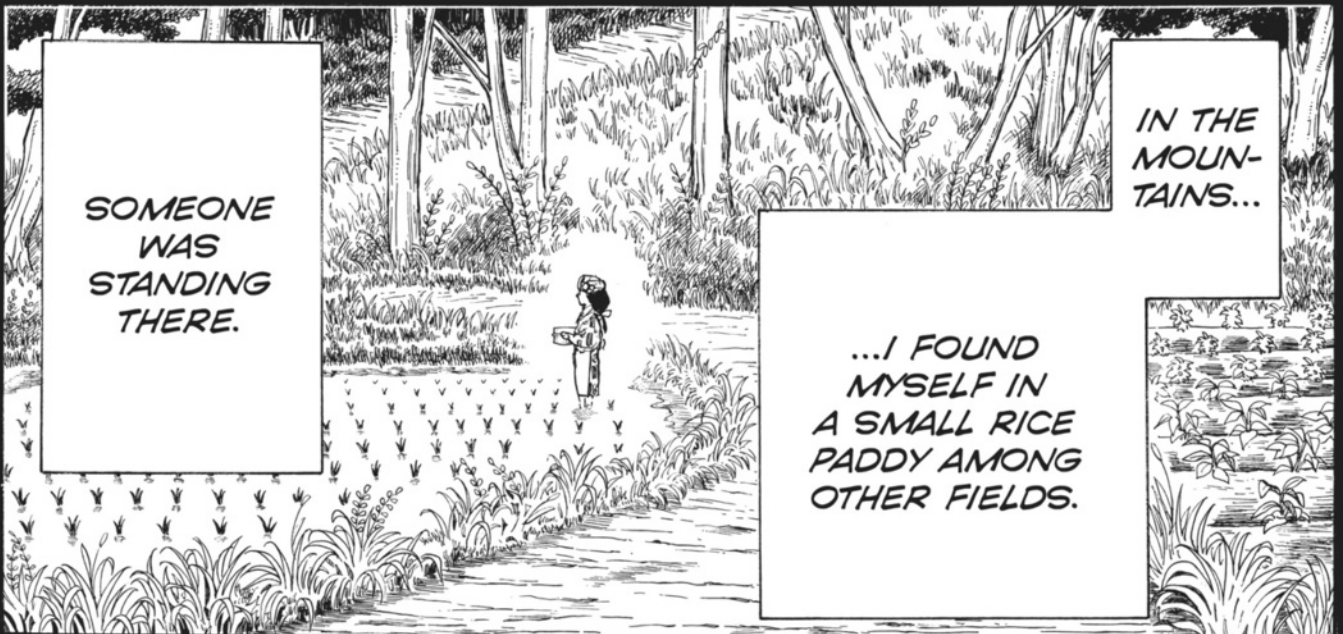
...AFTER
A WHOLE
DAY AND
NIGHT...



SOMEONE
WAS
STANDING
THERE.

IN THE
MOUN-
TAINS...

...I FOUND
MYSELF IN
A SMALL RICE
PADDY AMONG
OTHER FIELDS.



SO I ASKED
HER WHAT
SHE WAS
DOING.

SHE WAS
HOLDING A
BUCKET. SHE
DIDN'T MOVE
FOR A LONG
TIME.

IT WAS
A GIRL
ABOUT
MY AGE.





I'M ALL
ALONE
AND VERY
LONELY.

MY FAMILY
DIED IN A
PLAGUE.

SO I CAME
HERE TO FIND
TADPOLES TO
TAKE HOME.



...SHE
FREED THE
TADPOLES
FROM HER
BUCKET.

BUT AS
THE SUN
BEGAN TO
SET...



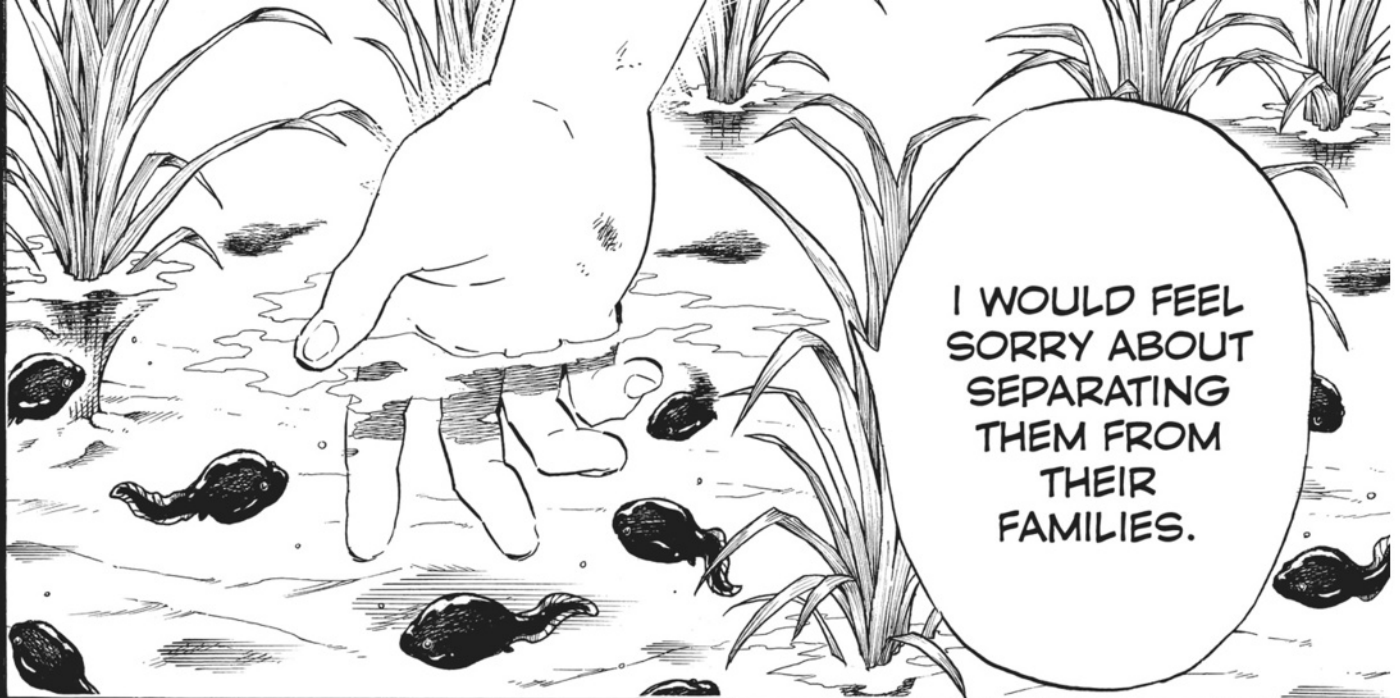
AND
THEN SHE
STOOD
STILL
AGAIN.



NO...



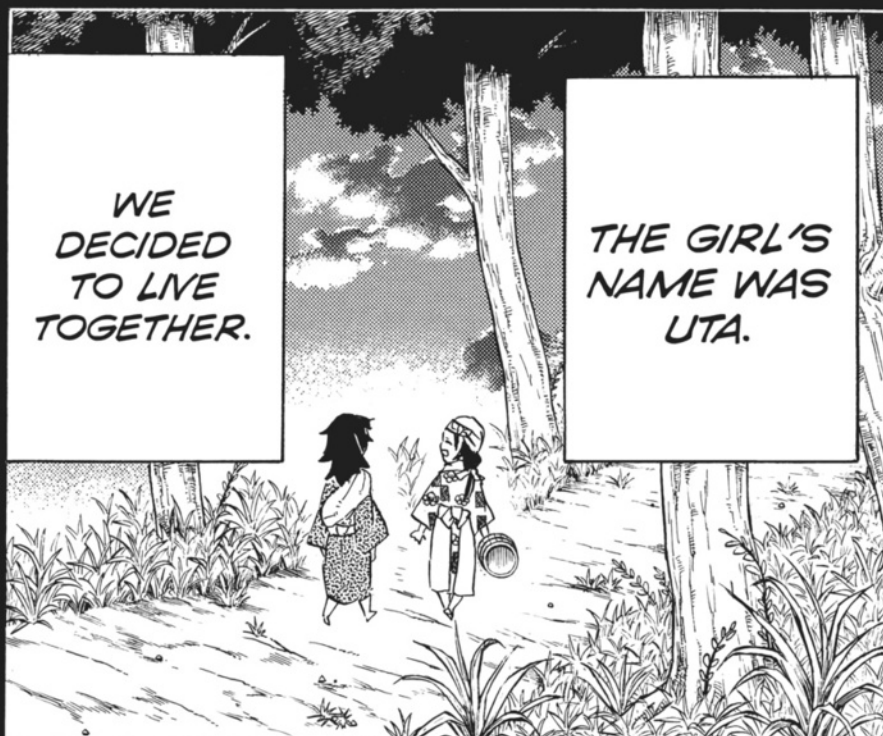
YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO
TAKE THEM
HOME?



UTA HAD A
HABIT OF
TALKING FROM
MORNING UNTIL
EVENING.



WE
DECIDED
TO LIVE
TOGETHER.



THE GIRL'S
NAME WAS
UTA.

SHE HAD
NEVER HEARD
OF SEEING
THROUGH
LIVING BODIES
AS IF THEY ARE
TRANSPARENT.



...I
LEARNED
THAT
PEOPLE
SEE THE
WORLD IN
DIFFERENT
WAYS.

THANKS
TO HER...

...BUT SHE
HELD ON
TO MY
HAND
FIRMLY.



I WAS
LIKE...

...A KITE
WHOSE
STRING
HAD
BROKEN...

THEN I
UNDERSTOOD
WHY I HAD
ALWAYS FELT
VAGUELY
ESTRANGED
FROM OTHER
PEOPLE.





...AND IT
WAS NEARLY
TIME FOR
HER TO GIVE
BIRTH.



TEN YEARS
LATER, WE
WERE
MARRIED...



I PLANNED
TO
RETURN...

...BEFORE
THE SUN
SET.

IN PREPA-
RATION, I
SET OUT TO
SUMMON A
MIDWIFE.



...HE WAS
RUSHING TO
VISIT HIS SON,
WHO HAD
BEEN FATALLY
WOUNDED IN
BATTLE.

EVEN
THOUGH HE
HAD A BAD
HEART...

ALONG
THE
WAY...

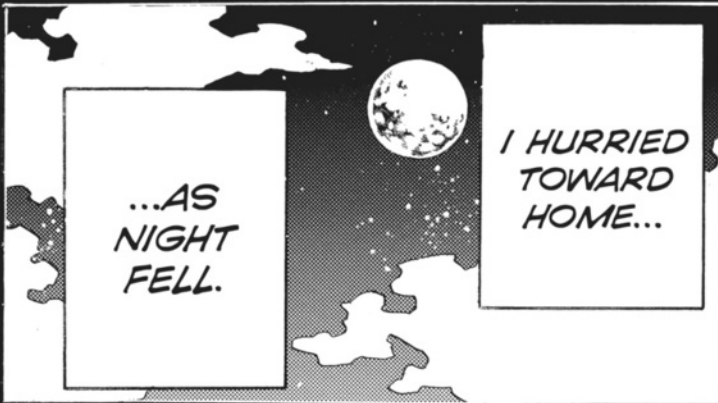
...THREE
MOUNTAINS
OVER FROM
WHERE WE
LIVED, I MET
AN OLD MAN
TRAVELING.



...AND
DECIDED TO
SUMMON THE
MIDWIFE THE
NEXT DAY.

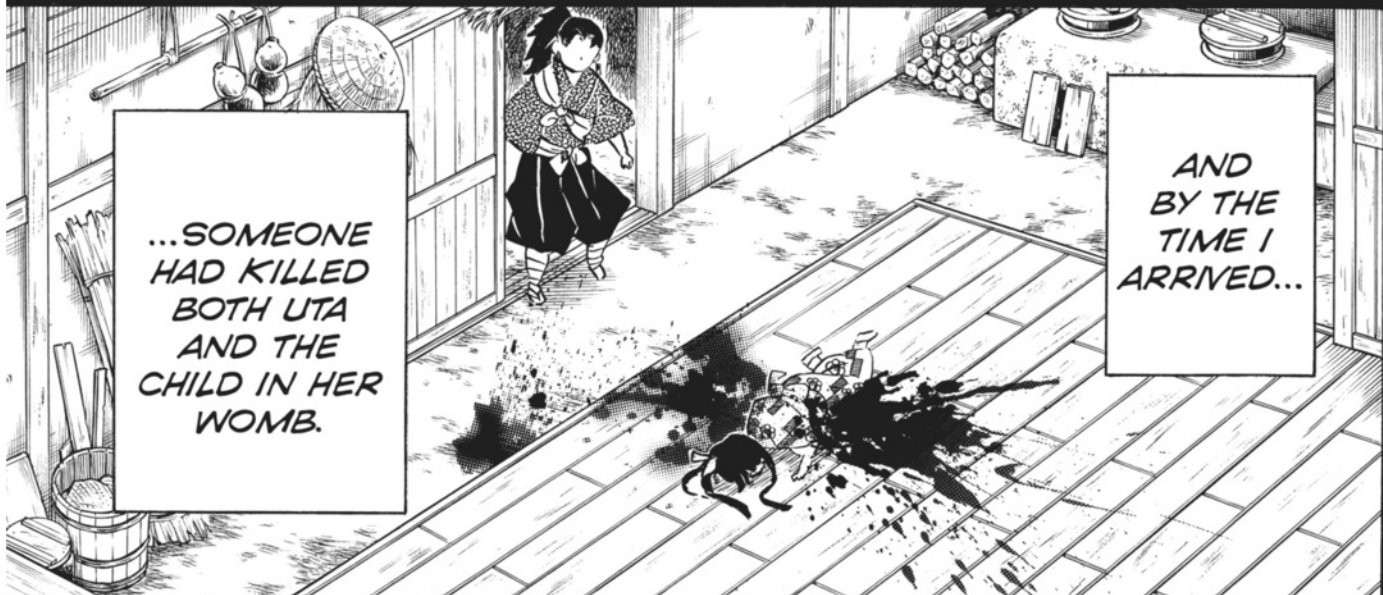


I
DELIVERED
THE OLD
MAN TO
HIS SON...



...AS
NIGHT
FELL.

I HURRIED
TOWARD
HOME...



...SOMEONE
HAD KILLED
BOTH UTA
AND THE
CHILD IN HER
WOMB.

AND
BY THE
TIME I
ARRIVED...



...IS MORE
PRECIOUS
TO YOU THAN
YOUR OWN.

...SOMEONE
WHOSE
LIFE...



...WHO
WILL NOT
HESITATE TO
TRAMPLE
UPON...

THERE
ARE
THOSE...

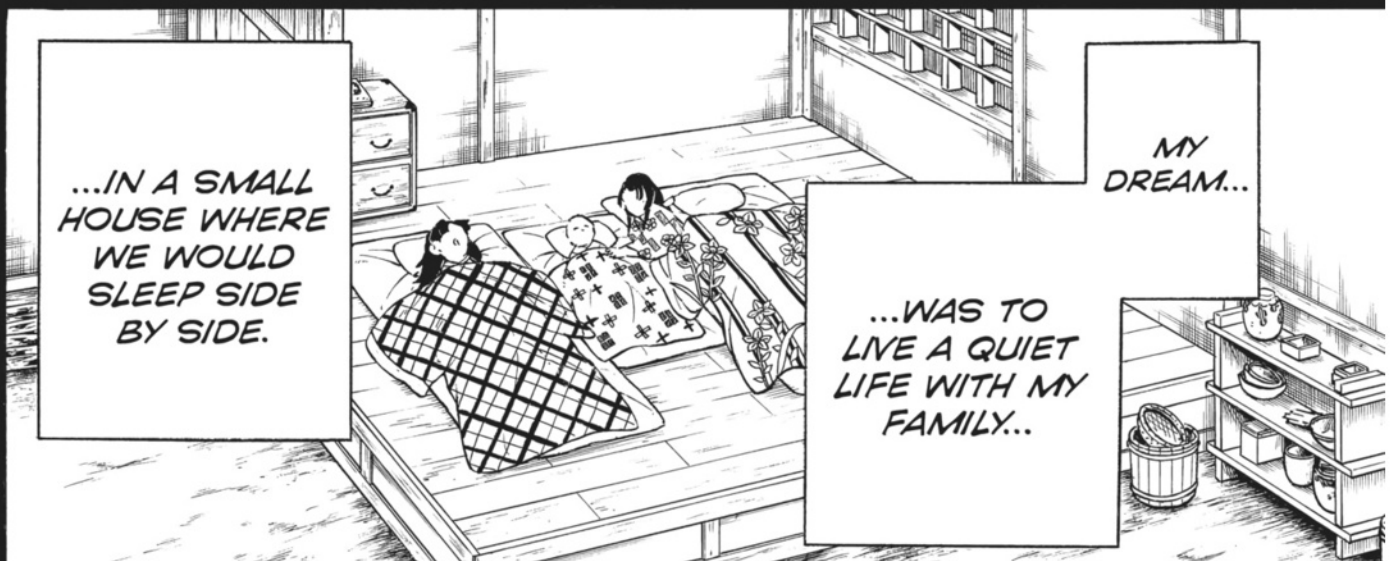


...AND
ENCOURAGED
ME TO
MOURN
THEM
PROPERLY
THROUGH
PRAYER.

...UNTIL A
SWORDSMAN
CAME IN
PURSUIT OF
THE DEMON...



FOR TEN DAYS,
I WAS IN A DAZE
AS I CRADLED
THEIR BODIES...



...IN A SMALL
HOUSE WHERE
WE WOULD
SLEEP SIDE
BY SIDE.

MY
DREAM...

...WAS TO
LIVE A QUIET
LIFE WITH MY
FAMILY...



...AND
CLOSE
ENOUGH
TO REACH
OUT...

...AND
TAKE
THEIR
HANDS.



I WOULD
BE CLOSE
ENOUGH TO
SEE THE
FACES OF
MY BELOVED
WIFE AND
CHILD...



BUT
EVEN
THAT...

...DID
NOT
COME
TRUE.

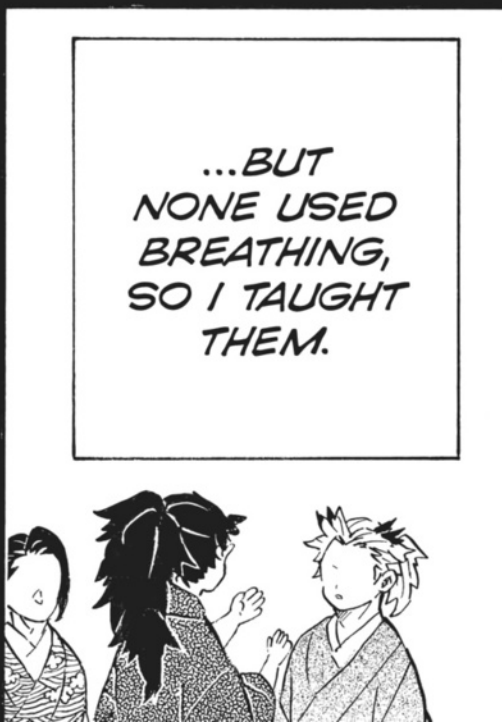


THAT
WOULD
HAVE BEEN
ENOUGH.



...EXIST
IN THIS
BEAUTIFUL
WORLD.

DEMONS
...

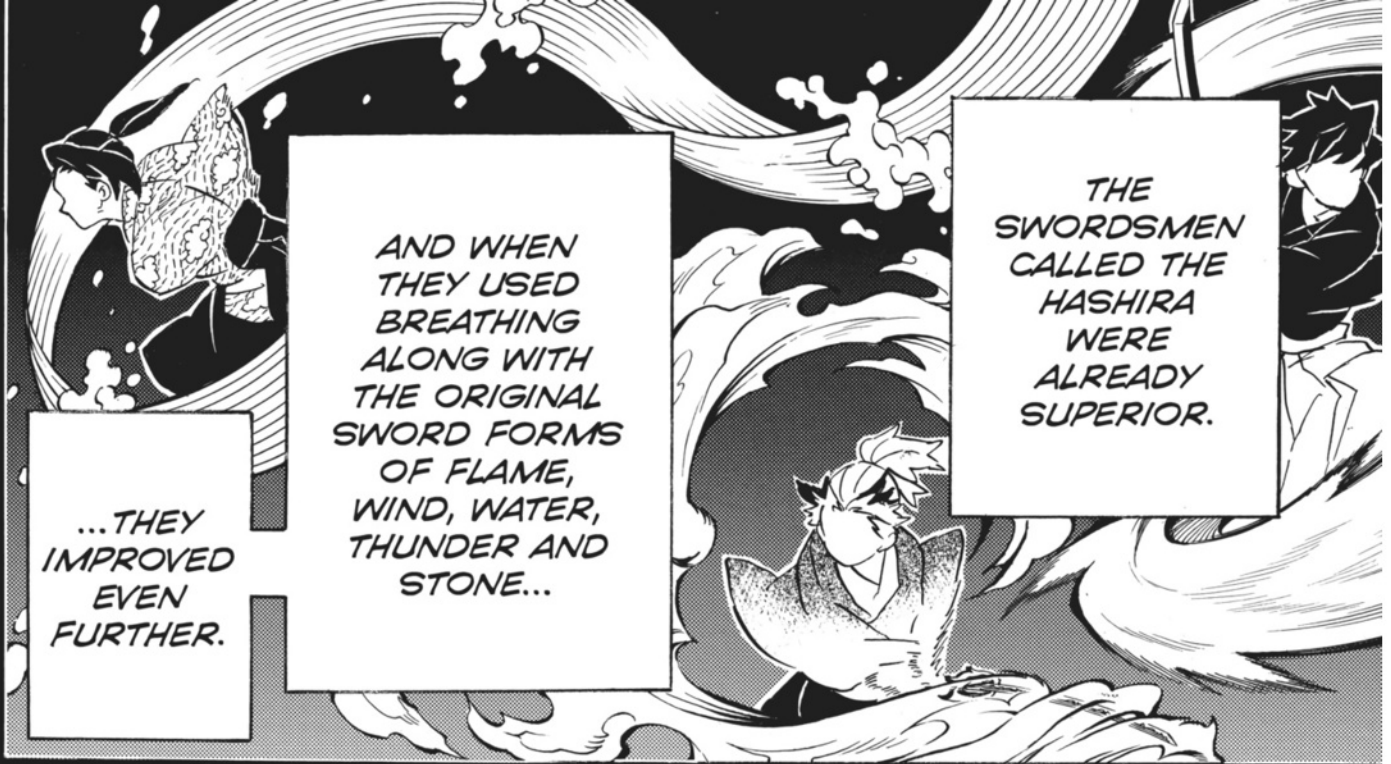


...BUT
NONE USED
BREATHING,
SO I TAUGHT
THEM.



SO I
BECAME
A DEMON
SLAYER.

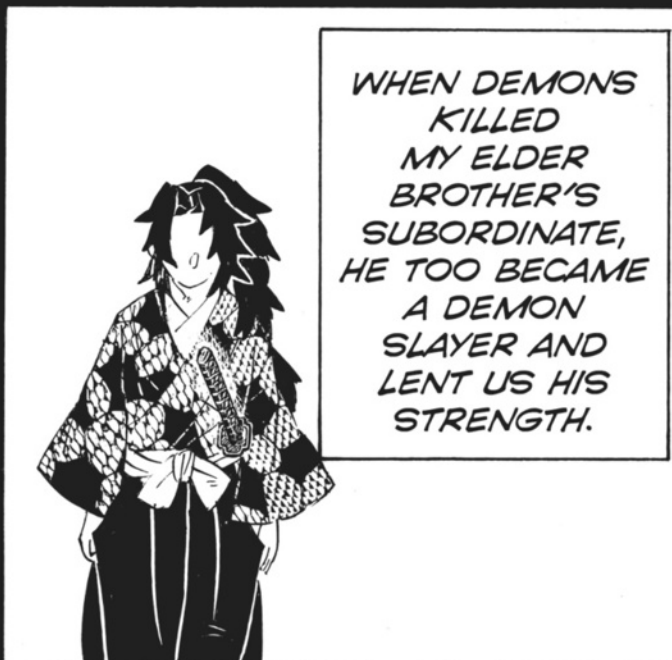
THERE HAD
ALWAYS
BEEN
THOSE
WHO
HUNTED
DEMONS...



...THEY
IMPROVED
EVEN
FURTHER.

AND WHEN
THEY USED
BREATHING
ALONG WITH
THE ORIGINAL
SWORD FORMS
OF FLAME,
WIND, WATER,
THUNDER AND
STONE...

THE
SWORDSMEN
CALLED THE
HASHIRA
WERE
ALREADY
SUPERIOR.



WHEN DEMONS
KILLED
MY ELDER
BROTHER'S
SUBORDINATE,
HE TOO BECAME
A DEMON
SLAYER AND
LENT US HIS
STRENGTH.



THE DEMON
SLAYERS
DEFEATED
DEMONS,
ONE AFTER
THE NEXT.



...I FOUND
THE
DEMON'S
PROGENITOR.

SOON
AFTER...



AND IN
THAT
MOMENT...



...OF
DEFEATING
HIM.

...I
KNEW
...

...THAT I HAD
BEEN BORN
FOR THE
PURPOSE...

SENGOKU WHISPERS

Yoriichi's attitudes and emotions are straightforward and simple, just as Sumiyoshi sensed they were, but he doesn't show his feelings on his face. Like his mother, Akeno, his personality is gentle and not given to conflict. Just because people aren't laughing out loud doesn't mean they aren't having a good time, and just because they aren't visibly shedding tears doesn't mean they aren't sad. Uta was able to sense changes in Yoriichi's emotions independent from his facial expressions, so even if Yoriichi's face didn't change much, they had no difficulty communicating.

Yoriichi's skill with a sword makes such a strong impression that the quiet side of his personality doesn't get enough emphasis. I doubt many people remember what kind of person Yoriichi was besides a good swordsman.

Uta thought of Yoriichi as a low-key person. He didn't even flinch when lightning struck, so there was a time when she thought he was the spirit of the divinity Jizo or a household spirit like Zashiki-warashi. Animals and insects are fond of Yoriichi. Uta loves it when birds, tanuki, foxes and other animals gather to eat from his hand.





HE WAS
OVERFLOW-
ING WITH
VIOLENT
INTENT.

HE
RESEMBLED
MAGMA
ERUPTING
FROM A
VOLCANO.

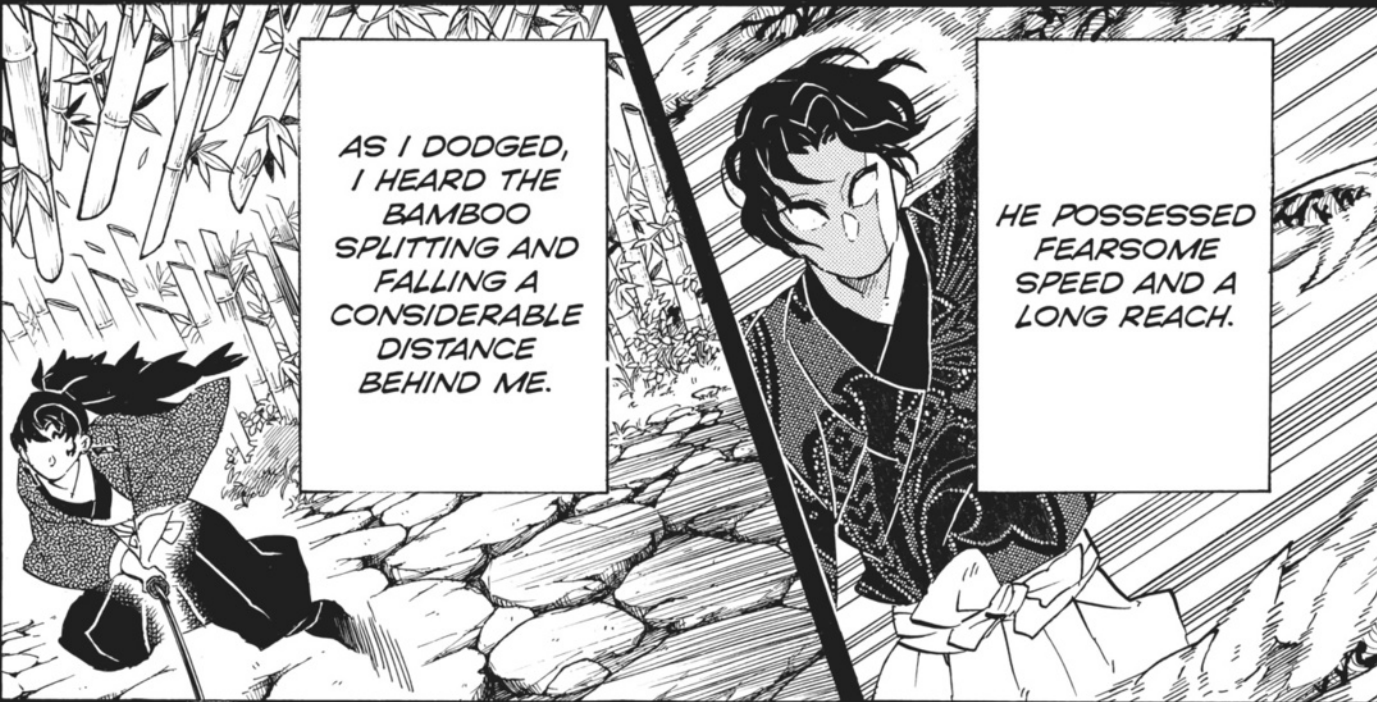
HE BOILED
AND
SEETHED
AS IF TO
CONSUME
EVERYTHING.

**CHAPTER 187:
INNOCENT PERSON**



UPON SAYING
THAT, HE
LASHED OUT.

"I AM NO
LONGER
INTERESTED IN
SWORDSMEN
WHO USE
BREATHING."



AS I DODGED,
I HEARD THE
BAMBOO
SPLITTING AND
FALLING A
CONSIDERABLE
DISTANCE
BEHIND ME.

HE POSSESSED
FEARSOME
SPEED AND A
LONG REACH.



FOR THE
FIRST TIME
EVER, I FELT A
CHILL DOWN
MY SPINE.

I SENSED
THAT EVEN A
SINGLE
SCRATCH
WOULD
KILL ME.



**HE HAD
SEVEN
HEARTS
AND FIVE
BRAINS.**



**AND IN THAT
MOMENT, I
COMPLETED
MY SWORD
FORMS.**



THE COM-
PLETE
FORMS?!

EVEN
THE
13TH?!

I WANT
TO
KNOW!
TEACH
ME!!



HE WAS
SUPPORTING
HIS SEVERED
HEAD SO IT
WOULDN'T
FALL, BUT IT
WOULDN'T
RECONNECT.

THE MAN
APPEARED
CONFUSED
THAT HIS
BODY WASN'T
REGENERATING.



THERE
WAS
SOME-
THING...

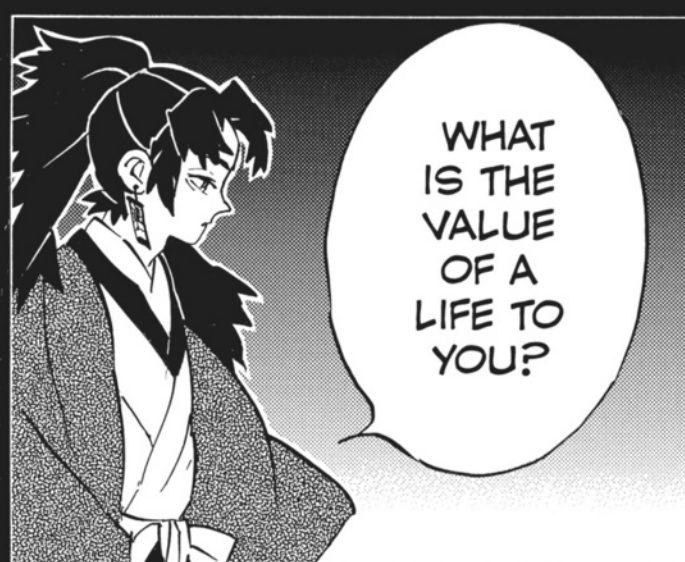
...I
NEEDED
TO ASK
HIM.

I REALIZED
THAT MY
BRIGHT RED
BLADE WOULD
IMMEDIATELY
WORK
AGAINST
EVEN THE
PROGENITOR
OF DEMONS.



HE
MERELY
LOOKED
AT ME,
BUT...

HE DIDN'T
ANSWER
ME.



WHAT
IS THE
VALUE
OF A
LIFE TO
YOU?



THEN

...

...I
GLANCED
AT THE
DEMON
GIRL WITH
HIM.



...PERHAPS
DUE TO
ANGER, HIS
FACE TURNED
DARK RED.

I THOUGHT
MY WORDS
HAD NOT
REACHED
HIM.



...AND SHE
STARED AT
THE MAN
WITH THE
SEVERED
HEAD.



SHE DID
NOT
ATTEMPT
TO HELP
HIM.

WITH HER
EYES WIDE
OPEN, SHE
LEANED
FOR-
WARD...



I DECIDED
TO FINISH
OFF THE
MAN
BEFORE
DEALING
WITH HER.



ODDLY, IT
LOOKED AS
IF HER EYES
WERE SHINING
WITH HOPE.



...I HEARD
THE SOUND
OF TEETH
GRINDING.



WHEN I
TOOK
A STEP
TOWARD
HIM...



THE NEXT
MOMENT,
HIS BODY
BURST
OPEN WITH
INCREDIBLE
FORCE.

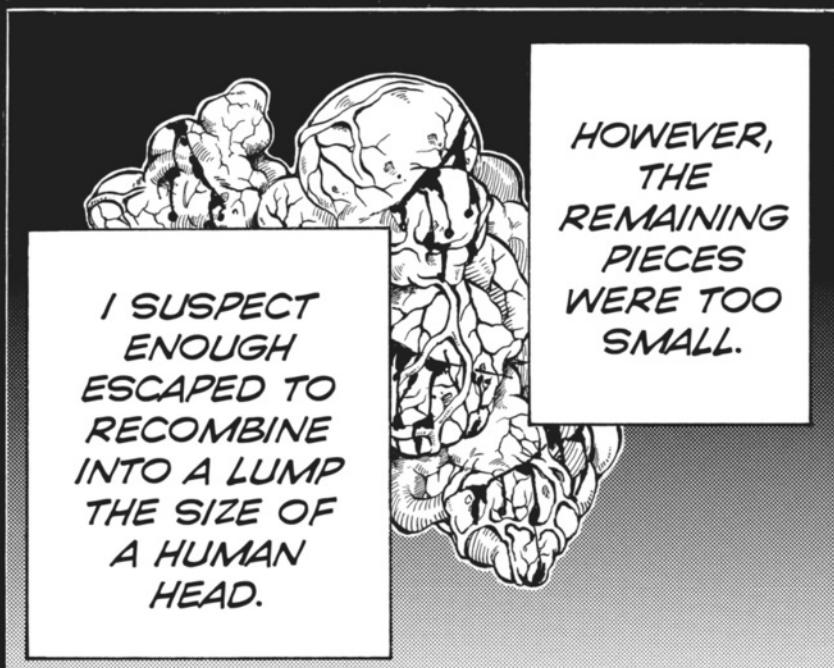


...I CUT A
LITTLE MORE
THAN 1,500
OF THEM.

OF THE
1,800
SCATTERED
PIECES OF
FLESH...

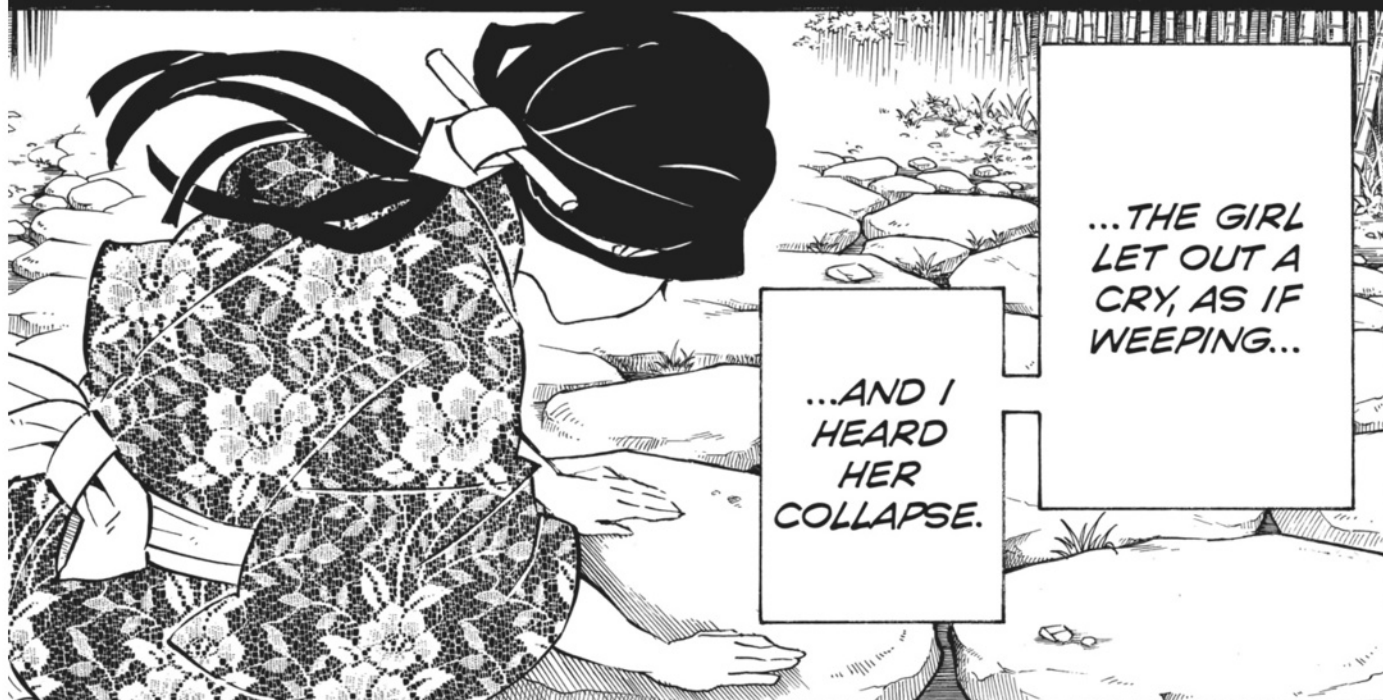


AS I
STOOD
THERE...



I SUSPECT
ENOUGH
ESCAPED TO
RECOMBINE
INTO A LUMP
THE SIZE OF
A HUMAN
HEAD.

HOWEVER,
THE
REMAINING
PIECES
WERE TOO
SMALL.



...AND I
HEARD
HER
COLLAPSE.

...THE GIRL
LET OUT A
CRY, AS IF
WEEPING...



THE GIRL
FORCED OUT
HER WORDS
AND TORE AT
HER HAIR.



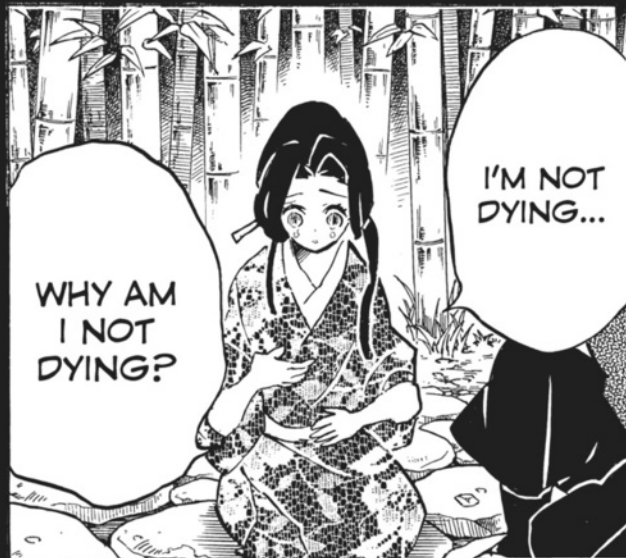
SO HE HAS
OVERCOME
THE WEAK-
NESS OF
BEHEAD-
ING...

YOU ALMOST
DID IT...



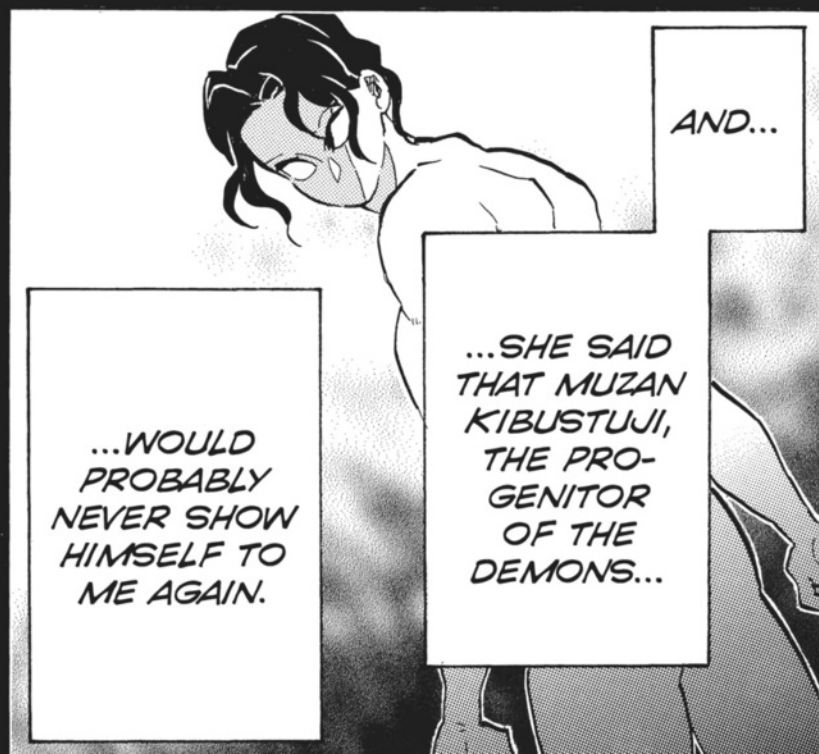
**MUZAN
KIBU-
TSUJI!!**

**I WISH
THAT
FILTHY
MAN HAD
DIED!!**



**WHY AM
I NOT
DYING?**

**I'M NOT
DYING...**



AND...

**...WOULD
PROBABLY
NEVER SHOW
HIMSELF TO
ME AGAIN.**

**...SHE SAID
THAT MUZAN
KIBUSTUJI,
THE PRO-
GENITOR
OF THE
DEMONS...**

**WHEN I
CALMED THE
FLUSTERED
GIRL, SHE
SPOKE TO
ME IN A RUSH
ABOUT THE
MAN.**



A black and white illustration of a woman with dark hair, wearing a patterned kimono. She has a cigarette in her mouth and is holding a small object in her hands. The illustration is framed by a white border.

HE AD

HER I WA TAMA

...AND SHE
HAD SAD
EYES.

...THAT MY OLDER BROTHER HAD BECOME A DEMON.



...AND MY BROTHER HAD BECOME A DEMON, SO THEY BANISHED ME FROM DEMON SLAYING.

...HAD FAILED TO DEFEAT KIBUTSUJI...

...AND I HAD ALLOWED TAMAYO TO ESCAPE...



MY MASTER, WHO, AT AGE SIX, HAD JUST BECOME OUR LEADER, WOULD NOT ALLOW THAT.



SOME EVEN SAID I SHOULD COMMIT SUICIDE.



BUT IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, YORIICHI...



...WHO HAD JUST LOST HIS FATHER.

I WAS SORRY TO FURTHER BURDEN A SUFFERING CHILD...



...I WAS BORN
WITH SPECIAL
STRENGTH FOR
THE PURPOSE
OF DEFEATING
MUZAN
KIBUTSUJI.



I
THINK...



BECAUSE OF
THAT, MANY
MORE PEOPLE
WILL DIE.



IN THE
END, I
FAILED.



BUT
I WAS
LACKING.



AND THAT
PAINS ME.



SO MANY
THINGS HAD
HAPPENED TO
YORIICHI...



I
CAN'T...

...
SPEAK.

I
THOUGHT
THAT
PERHAPS
...

...THAT I
COULDN'T
FIND ANY
WORDS TO
OFFER.

...THE
SILENCE
CONTINUED
FOR A WHILE.

...MY
ANCESTOR,
SUMIYOSHI...

...MIGHT SAY
SOMETHING,
BUT...

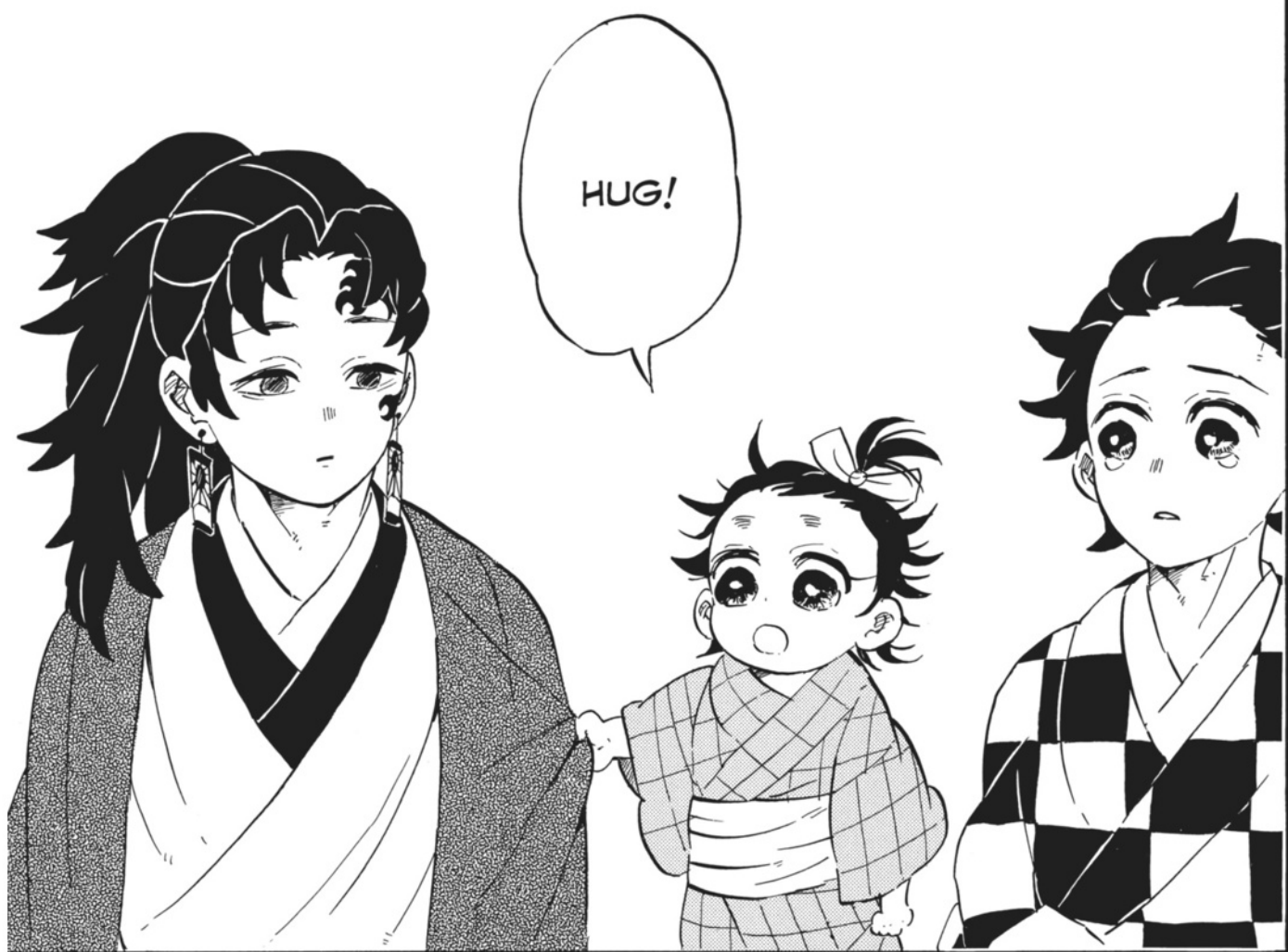
I NEED
SOME
WAY TO...

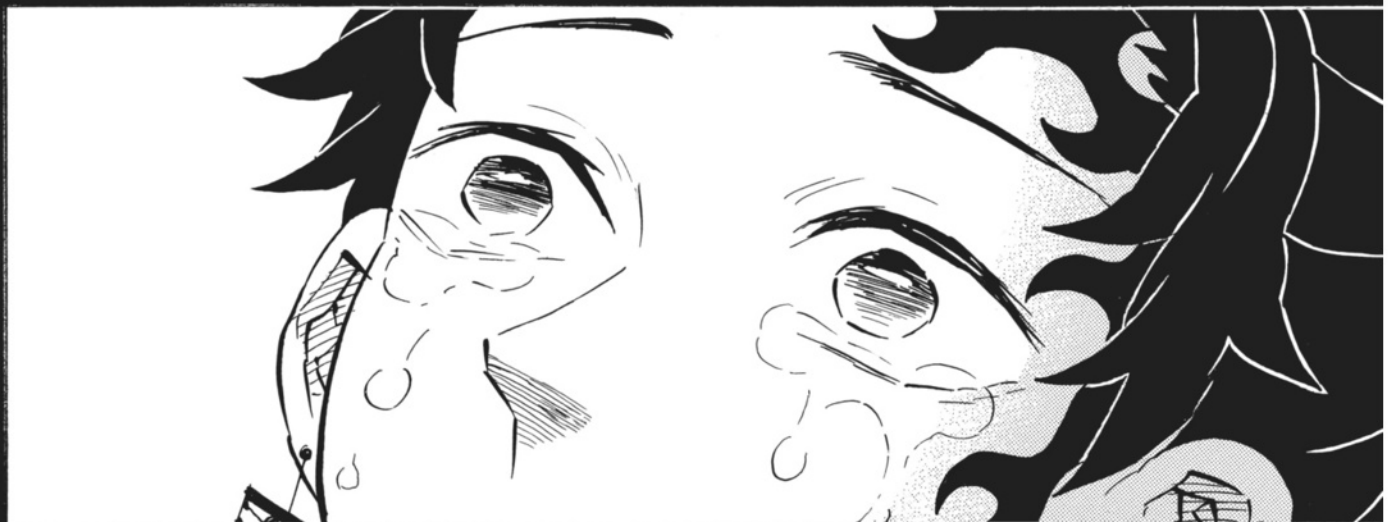
HE CAME
HERE
BECAUSE
HE IS
DEEPLY
HURT.

I WANT TO
DO SOME-
THING.

TMp

TMp











OKAY?

I'LL FEED
YOU A
NICE, BIG
MEAL!



WHY ARE YOU
CRYING? I'M
SURE IT'LL BE
FINE!



COME
ON!

SO
CHEER
UP!



...AND THAT
YORIICHI
DIED
HUNDREDS
OF YEARS
AGO, BUT...



I KNOW
I'M IN THE
MIDDLE OF
A FIGHT
RIGHT
NOW...



...I CAN'T
HELP BUT
WISH THAT
HIS HEART
WILL FIND
EVEN A
LITTLE PEACE.

SENGOKU WHISPERS 1

When Yoriichi was two years old, his father told him he was an unwanted and unlucky child who never should have been born and that he would bring misfortune to the Tsugikuni family. For that reason, Yoriichi held his breath, didn't talk to anyone and tried to make his presence felt as little as possible so nothing bad would occur. He thought it was wrong for him to even be there.

However, when his mother gave him earrings as charms, he realized she thought he was deaf, so he spoke for the first time to show her that he could hear. Though he wouldn't tell her why he hadn't spoken before, she immediately realized he was protecting his father. Michikatsu and Yoriichi hurt inside because their parents often quarreled about them. The parents also fought when the boys' father hit Michikatsu for playing with Yoriichi.

Their father was superstitious and paid attention to feng shui, so he would do things like put on his right tabi sock first and begin his meals by eating certain foods first. When Yoriichi disappeared, he went looking for him because he wanted to live together happily as his deceased wife had requested in her will. They had quarreled incessantly, but he loved her from the bottom of his heart. After she passed away, he never remarried.

Like Michikatsu, he didn't know about Akeno's illness, so he clung to her body, crying and asking why she hadn't told him. Shock over his wife's death and concern for Yoriichi, who had disappeared, harmed his health. After Michikatsu got married, the father passed away in his thirties as if in relief.

SENGOKU WHISPERS 2

Yoriichi was very happy holding hands with Uta as they came and went along the path to and from the rice paddies and fields. After losing Uta and the baby, he remained single. The only woman he ever loved throughout his whole life was Uta. After becoming a Demon Slayer, he got along well with the Hashira of that time, so he began talking a lot.

Even after his banishment, he kept in touch with a few Hashira, which the master silently allowed. Michikatsu killed the previous master, the father of the master at that time, and presented the head to Kibutsuji. After that, the organization kept the master's residence in stricter secrecy than before. That's also about the time the Kakushi came into existence.

After Yoriichi died, Muzan made his move and killed all the sword wielders who had learned Sun Breathing from Yoriichi. During that time, the Demon Slayer organization fell into a disorganized state. The Flame Hashira recorded how the Demon Slayers gradually weakened after Yoriichi left, because no one remained who could teach them swordplay as skillfully as he could.

After Yoriichi let Tamayo escape, she fed on animals and human corpses to survive. Yoriichi had told her that he believed in her desire to defeat Muzan. She often recalled those words and resolved that no matter how much she suffered, she would never attack human beings.

I found some notes I made before, so I've recorded them here. I cut a large amount, but it's still quite a lot! (Sweat)